Mitsurou Kubo
No.
2
Again!!
アゲイン!!

contents

Chapter 10 Hugging Hazard 003
Chapter 11 The Road to the Third-Years 021
Chapter 12 Everybody Yell Now! 043
Chapter 13 The Day Before The Big Day 061
Chapter 14 All Night Party! 077
Chapter 15 Screw It! 095
Chapter 16 Raw Feelings 113
Chapter 17 Cheer!!! 131
Chapter 18 The Girl Who Didn't Want To Leap Through Time 151
Chapter 19 Destined For Defeat 169

No.
2
Mitsurou Kubo
Again!!
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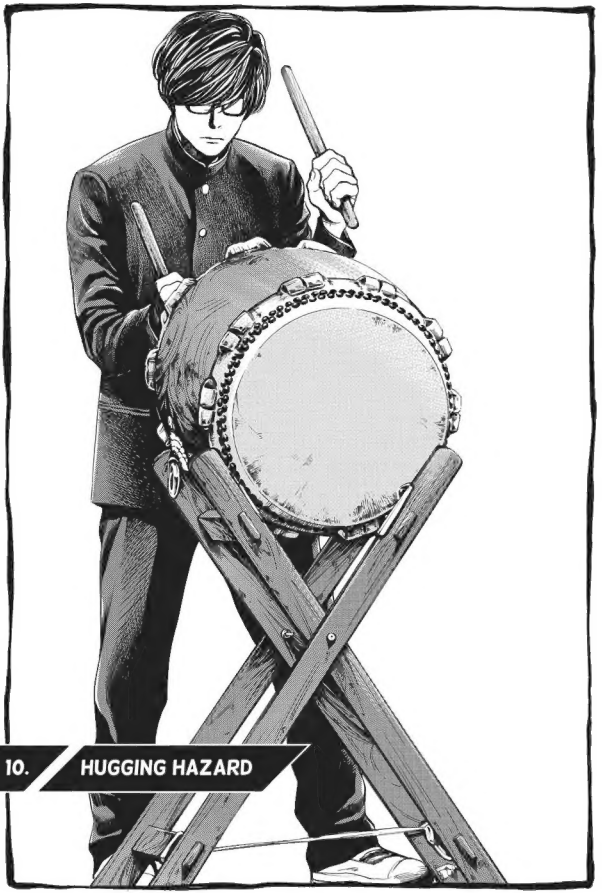


10. HUGGING HAZARD

I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!
I'M SO SORRY!

WHAT?
UH...
WHOA...

...
IS THERE A REASON YOU'RE APOLOGIZING LIKE THIS?
I JUST WANNA KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE IN THE OUENDAN.
ARE YOU SURE YOU UNDERSTOOD MY QUESTION?
HEY...

WELL, IF YOU WERE IN THE OUENDAN, I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
WOULD YOU JOIN BACK UP?
THERE'S GONNA BE AN INTER-CLUB TRAINING SESSION IN THREE DAYS, AND AS IT IS, THE OUENDAN DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS FOR IT.
THE CAPTAIN NEEDS ME?!
SHE WANTS ME TO COME BACK?!
FOR REAL?!
UH, NAH...
I JUST WANTED TO-
FOR SURE!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO ASKED US TO TALK TO YOU.
FWIP
SHE'S IN A REALLY, REALLY TOUGH SPOT RIGHT NOW.
SHE SAID SHE DEFINITELY WANTS YOU BACK! NO JOKE!
...
WAIT, FUJI-EDA...

YES!
PUMP
DUMMY.
WE CAN'T JUST LIE TO HIM.
WHAT, SO YOU THINK WE SHOULD JUST TELL HIM EVERY-THING?
IF THE OUENDAN HAD TO GO ON HIATUS LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF THE CAPTAIN, THEN WE SHOULD ACT LIKE SHE'S HAD A CHANGE OF HEART, AT LEAST FOR NOW.
I MEAN, LOOK HOW HAPPY IT MADE THIS GUY.
HEY!
HUH?
WHERE'D HE GO?
HE JUST RAN OFF.
OH!
DAMN, HE'S MAKING GOOD TIME.
FWOOSH
WHERE'S HE GOING? ISN'T THAT WHERE ...
?

DUM
DA DUM
DA DUM
DUM
?!
NO.
DASH
COME ON!
YOU'RE ALL WAY OUT OF SYNC!
OSU!!
CAPTAAA!N!
DUM
DA DUM
BA-DUMP
PANT
PANT
PANT

CAP-
TAIN
USAMI
!!
GLOMP
HEY!
THERE
HE
IS!
?!

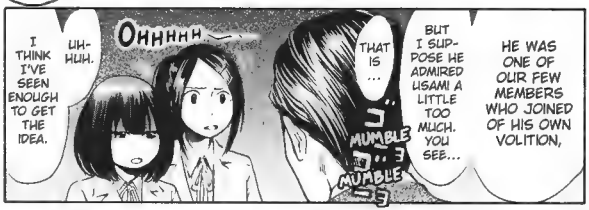
NUZZLE
PANT
FINAL-LY,
I CAN SERVE YOU WITH MY CHEER-ING.
PANT
PANT
NUZZLE
BAFF
UH-OH.

I STEP OUT TO BUY SOME JUICE FOR THE OTHER CLUBS,
AND THIS IS WHAT HAP-PENS?!
OKUMA FELL IN THE CREEK AGAIN ?!
KASPLASH

OVER-SEAS, THAT HUG WOULD'VE BEEN TOTALLY APPRO-PRIATE.
Helped himself out of the creek.
SORRY, I JUST WASN'T THINKING.
Jumped in after him, but wasn't much help.

YOU SAID HE FELL IN THE CREEK AGAIN?
KITA-JIMA SEN-SEI,
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY ?
IT'S TOO BAD YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR'S INCIDENT, BUT YOU'VE GOTTA UNDERSTAND THAT THE OUENDAN'S IN A TOUGH SPOT RIGHT NOW.
AHH, OKUMA, OKUMA... STUFF LIKE THAT JUST WON'T FLY HERE IN JAPAN. I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO GIVE IT A REST.
I'M SOR-RY.
YES, SIR. I'M SORRY.

OSU!
POUND
HE GREW UP OUTSIDE OF JAPAN AND DID A LOT OF MOVING AROUND UNTIL HE CAME HERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HIS NAME'S TATSUHIKO OKUMA.
HE WAS IN THE OUENDAN UNTIL PARTWAY THROUGH LAST YEAR.


UH-HUH.
I THINK I'VE SEEN ENOUGH TO GET THE IDEA.
OHHHHH~
THAT IS...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
BUT I SUPPOSE HE ADMIRED USAMI A LITTLE TOO MUCH. YOU SEE...
HE WAS ONE OF OUR FEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED OF HIS OWN VOLITION,

I JUST COULDN'T STAND TO SEE HER LIKE THAT.
CAPTAIN USAMI WAS SO DEPRESSED AFTER ALL THE FUSS ABOUT HER APPEARANCES ON TV.

...
...WAS TRULY SAD.
WHAT HAPPENED...

THE WATER WAS LOW AT THE TIME, AND I LANDED ON THE ROCKS. MY BROKEN BONES TOOK THREE MONTHS TO HEAL.
AAAAAGH
GLOMP
AS PUNISHMENT, THE OUENDAN HAD TO GO ON HIATUS.
Yeah, that's about what I'd expect at that point...
...
EVER SINCE, I'VE KEPT ASKING CAPTAIN USAMI TO LET ME BACK INTO THE OUENDAN,
BUT SHE ALWAYS TURNS ME DOWN.
AND IN SPITE OF MY UNDYING LOVE FOR HER!
CAP-TAIN! WHAT'S THE PROB-LEM?
YOU! AND EVERY-THING ABOUT YOU!

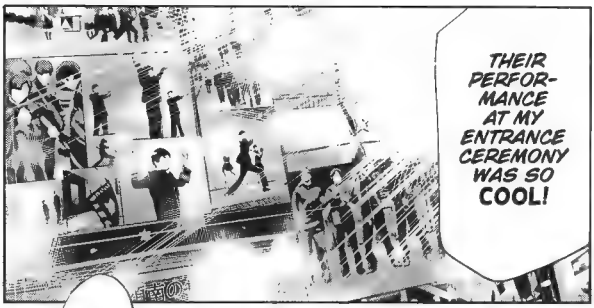
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
THERE IT IS! YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE EVERYTHING BETTER BY JUST GROVELING ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES!
YOU DON'T EVEN ACT LIKE YOU MEAN IT, OKUMA!
FLUMP?
I HAVE NO USE FOR YOU.
AND MY NEW MEMBERS ARE WAITING.
SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
WHAM

IMAMURA ...
HUH?
WHAT?
I REMEMBERED SOMETHING.
WHOA ...
HE'S SAYING SOME NASTY STUFF IN ENGLISH.
%#$*@!!
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
*^@$!!!
TCH!
FUCK!!

SOME-BODY WAS ALWAYS MAD AT HIM.
PEOPLE CALLED HIM "THE MASTER OF GROVELING."
HE'D MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF THREE YEARS AGO, TOO.
THIS TATSU-HIKO OKUMA GUY?

AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S AS MUCH OF A WEIRDO AS THEY SAID.
FIG-URES.

I LOVE OUR SCHOOL'S OUENDAN!
YES, I DO!
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO REJOIN THE OUEN-DAN?
SO, UH... OKUMA, RIGHT?

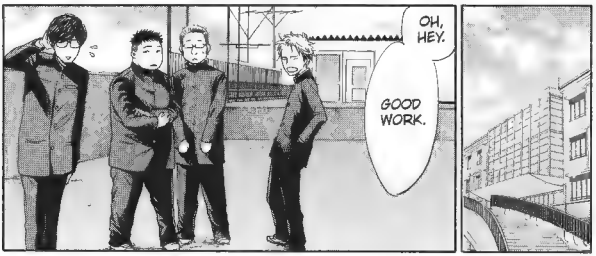

THEIR PERFORMANCE AT MY ENTRANCE CEREMONY WAS SO COOL!

I WANT...
...TO SEE THEM PERFORM LIKE THAT AGAIN!

NO...
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.
...
ARE YOU A FAN, TOO?

...NOW WE'VE GOT ONE GUY WHO'LL COME BACK.
WELL...
SO YOU'RE TRYING TO BRING ALL THE FORMER MEMBERS BACK TOGETHER?
WAIT.
Zzz...
You can do it...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
DAMN!
...THE OUEN-DAN IN ALL ITS GLORY FOR MYSELF.
JUST,
I WANNA GET TO SEE...
HEY, IS THAT SUP-POSED TO BE A TRADE?
UH ...
IN RETURN, ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU CHEER FOR MY LOVE.
I'LL HELP!
ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE INTER-CLUB TRAIN-ING!
FIRST YEAR GIRLS?
SOME FIRST YEAR GIRLS WANNA TALK TO YOU.
HEY!
SHIRA-ISHI!
2-E

HEY THERE.
WE WERE HOPING WE COULD ASK YOU SOMETHING.
IT'S SORT OF PRIVATE, THOUGH.
CAN WE GO SOMEWHERE A LITTLE LESS CROWDED?


OH, HEY.
GOOD WORK.

OKUMA?!
AND TAKANO? EVEN NAKAGAWA?
DID THEY GO TO YOUR CLASSES, TOO?
YOU, YEAH, TOO, MAN?
GREAT. NOW WE HAVE ALL THE SECOND YEARS WHO USED TO BE IN THE OUENDAN HERE.
THANKS, MY LITTLE HONEYPOTS.
STOP CALLING ME THAT...
Am I ever gonna live it down?
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY WE HAVE TO BE YOUR GO-BETWEENS!
...EXCUSE ME?

I'M THE ONLY SECOND-YEAR WHO LOVES THE OUENDAN!
OH!
UH,
I TAKE IT THESE GUYS DON'T LOVE THE OUENDAN AS MUCH AS YOU DO?
WHY THE HELL WOULD WE DO THAT AFTER WE MANAGED TO ESCAPE?
YOU MUST BE JOK-ING!
YOU WANT US TO REJOIN THE OUEN-DAN?

WE JUST GOT DRAGGED INTO IT AS PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WHEN ALL THE CLUBS WERE RECRUITING PEOPLE AFTER OUR ENTRANCE CEMENTY!
YEAH, WE DIDN'T EVEN WANNA JOIN THAT STUPID CLUB IN THE FIRST PLACE.

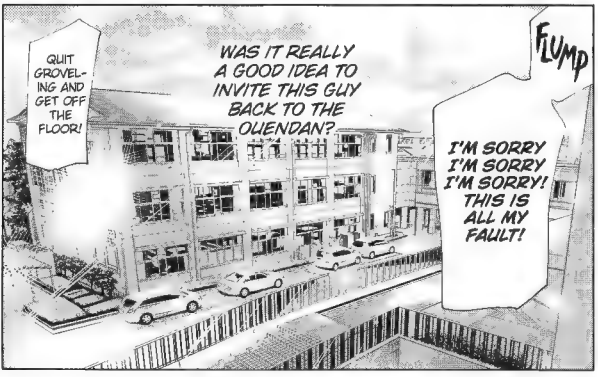
AND THAT SHOULD GO DOUBLY FOR THE OUENDAN.
WELL, I WAS TAUGHT THAT HERE IN JAPAN, WE DO WHAT OUR SENPAI TELL US!
I'M NEVER GOING BACK!
MY LIFE IS WAY BETTER NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THAT HELL.

YOU GUYS JUST DON'T HAVE ANY SPIRIT ANYMORE! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ACTING ALL PATHETIC!
GRRRRR
I'VE HELD MY TONGUE...
BUT YOU'RE JUST IMPOSSIBLE, DUDE.
CLICK...

THAT LEAVES US WITH TWO THIRD YEARS.
OO-KAY...
I GUESS THEY'RE OUT...
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU NERVOUS?
YOU'RE ONLY A FIRST YEAR.

GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
MOTHERFUCKER!!..
(FUCK)
UGH!
HOY
...

...THE SOCIAL HIERARCHY DOESN'T MEAN SHIT!
IF YOU'RE NOT IN A CLUB ...
ROAR

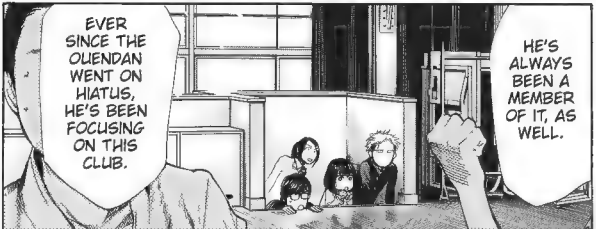

QUIT GROVEL-ING AND GET OFF THE FLOOR!
WAS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA TO INVITE THIS GUY BACK TO THE OUENDAN?
FLUMP
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!

11. THE ROAD TO THE THIRD-YEARS

I HATE ALL YOUR "SENPAI" THIS AND "SENPAI" THAT CRAP!
JUST HURRY UP AND TAKE US TO THEM!
SHOVE
SHIT!!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT YOUR SENPAI ?!
I HAVE A HUNCH ...
... WE'LL FIND ONE OF THEM IN HERE.
THE GYM ?
YES!

HA!
AY!
HI-YAH!
OH, I CAN HEAR HIM!

HA!
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
HA!
AY!
THE KARATE CLUB?

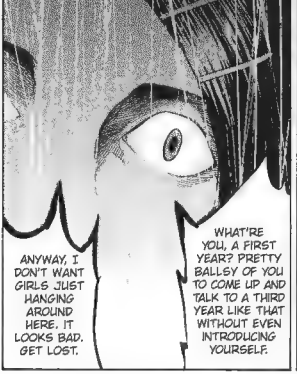

EVER SINCE THE OUENDAN WENT ON HIATUS, HE'S BEEN FOCUSING ON THIS CLUB.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A MEMBER OF IT, AS WELL.

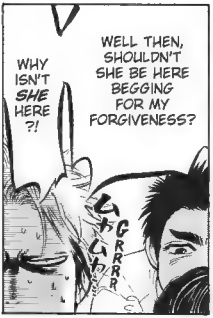
*CHEER SERGEANT: AN OFFICER IN AN OHENDAN OF EQUAL RANK TO THE VICE-CAPTAIN AND SECOND IN AUTHORITY TO THE CAPTAIN.

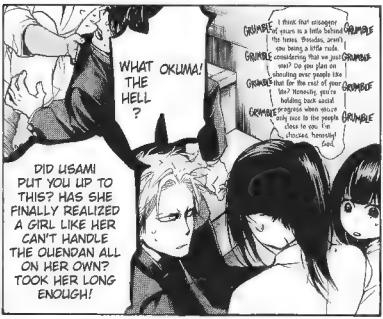
...
HE'S JAPANESE?
YES!
I EVEN HEAR HIS FAMILY RUNS A DANGO SHOP.
FOR REAL?
WELL, HOW'D HE GET A TAN LIKE THAT WORKING OUT INDOORS?
SEEMS SORT OF OUT THERE.
IT'S NOT SO OUT THERE!

FLINCH
WHATCHA DOING OVER THERE?
IF IT ISN'T OKUMA!
HEY!
DON'T YOU TRY TO HIDE FROM ME!
WHAT'RE YOU ACTING LIKE SUCH A STRANGER FOR?
I WAS YOUR SENPAI IN THE OUENDAN, REMEMBER?
PAT
PAT
HEH HEH HEH
OH GOD... HE'S THE KIND OF GUY I CAN'T STAND...

?
HM?
...
OKAY, YOU'RE UP!
ENGAGE PLAN HONEY-POT!
WAVE
SO...
WE WERE WON-DERING...
WOULD YOU BE INTER-ESTED...
...IN RE-JOINING THE OUENDAN?


ANYWAY, I DON'T WANT GIRLS JUST HANGING AROUND HERE. IT LOOKS BAD. GET LOST.
WHAT'RE YOU, A FIRST YEAR? PRETTY BALLSY OF YOU TO COME UP AND TALK TO A THIRD YEAR LIKE THAT WITHOUT EVEN INTRODUCING YOURSELF.
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, UGLY?
EX-CUSE ME?
ガン!
HURK


WHY ISN'T SHE HERE ?!
WELL THEN, SHOULDN'T SHE BE HERE BEGGING FOR MY FORGIVENESS?
GRRRR


WHAT OKUMA! THE HELL ?
DID USAMI PUT YOU UP TO THIS? HAS SHE FINALLY REALIZED A GIRL LIKE HER CAN'T HANDLE THE OUENDAN ALL ON HER OWN? TOOK HER LONG ENOUGH!
I think that scrounger Yui enters is a little behind the times. Besides, aren't you being a little rude considering that we just met? Do you plan on shouting over people like that for the rest of your life? Honestly, you're holding back social progress when you're only nice to the people close to you. I'm shocked, honestly! Pah!
GRUMBLE

OKUMA'S HELPING OUT AT MY REQUEST.
I'M ACTING ON MY OWN, TRYING TO GET THE OUENDAN BACK TOGETHER BEFORE IT FALLS APART.
NOPE.
CAPTAIN USAMI HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
TWISH

GET OVER HERE.
I'M INTRIGUED.
HMM ...
THIS IS WEIRD
DON'T TELL ME ...
CHATTER.
CHATTER
SERIOUSLY?
OH GOD.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I'LL GO BACK TO THE OUENDAN ON ONE CONDITION.
YOU HAVE TO BEAT ME IN A FIGHT!
HI-YAH!

NOPE.
What's the point?
YOU WIN!
I LOSE, I'M GOING HOME. BYE BYE.
WHAT?!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?!
HEY, OKUMA.
WHERE CAN WE FIND THAT OTHER FORMER MEMBER?
GRRR
LISTEN UP!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING BACK TO THE OUENDAN AS LONG AS USAMI'S THE CAPTAIN!
I WAS AGAINST ACCEPTING FEMALE MEMBERS ALL ALONG, ANYWAY!

SUGA-SENPAI REALLY LOVED THE OUENDAN.
IT'S JUST THAT HE'S **JUST A LITTLE** MORE SEXIST THAN MOST GUYS,
SO HE COULDN'T GET ALONG WITH CAPTAIN USAMI, AND ENDED UP LEAVING.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM!
I can't say I liked that guy much either.
PERSONALLY, I DON'T GET ALONG WITH GUYS LIKE HIM AT ALL. I'D REALLY RATHER NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIM.
SO I GUESS THIS NEXT GUY IS OUR LAST HOPE.
UMM, ABOUT THAT...
HE MIGHT NOT EXACTLY BE EASY TO CONVINCE, EITHER...
SERIOUSLY?
WHAT'S HE LIKE? WHAT'S HE DOING THESE DAYS?
JUST A MOMENT.
DIRT DIRT DIRT DIRT
SWIPE SWIPE TAP
HEY, OKA-CHAN-SENPAI! CHAN-KUMA HERE!
WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S AT A CONVENIENCE STORE NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE.
YOU GUYS ARE FRIENDS?!
Why didn't you say so?!

AH HA HA HA HA!

DAMN, THIS WEEK'S ISSUE IS PRETTY HOT!

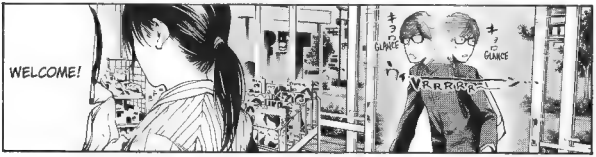
FOR REAL?

LET ME SEE, DUDE.

LOOK.

YOU CAN TOTALLY SEE HER NIPPLE.

NIIICE!



ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU.
Which one?
THIS IS THE OUENDAN'S FORMER VICE-CAPTAIN,
MASAKI OKAMOTO-SENPAI!
HUH?
YEAH? SO?

WAIT, YOU WERE THE VICE-CAPTAIN OF THE OUENDAN, OKA?
HIM? REALLY?
YEAH.
WOW, YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK THE PART. I'M IMPRESSED.
I MEAN, WE ONLY HAD THREE MEMBERS AT THE TIME.
BESIDES, I QUIT WHEN THE CLUB HAD TO GO ON HIATUS NOT LONG AFTER, SO IT'S NOT LIKE I ACTUALLY HAD TO DO ANYTHING.
This is Chan-kuma
He was my kohai in the ouendan.
And get this, he grew up overseas!
Hey, nice to meet you!
That's cool! Do you speak English?
WAIT.

THE NEW STUDENTS THIS YEAR MUST BE REALLY SOME-THING!
YOU'RE SO CUTE!

UH, YEAH.
OH!
YOU MUST BE FIRST YEARS, HUH?
ARE YOU FRIENDS OF CHAN-KUMA'S?

SHUDDER
N-NOT AT ALL!

W-
WAIT A MINUTE!
SINCE THE GANG'S ALL HERE, WHY DON'T WE FIND SOMEPLACE TO HANG OUT? THERE'S A MCD'S IN FRONT OF THE STATION.
OH, NICE!
LET'S GO!

...EXACTLY THE KIND OF CHARISMATIC GUY THAT I CAN'T STAND!
THIS FORMER VICE-CAPTAIN SEEMS LIKE...
CLENCH

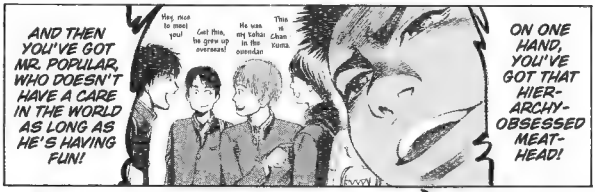
WE NEED TO TALK.
AT LEAST LET US DO WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR!
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
...
WELL, THE OUENDAN'S IN SORT OF A TIGHT SPOT RIGHT NOW. IT SEEMS LIKE IT COULD BE ON THE VERGE OF FALLING APART.
SO...WE THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD GET SOME OF THE OLD MEMBERS BACK TOGETHER AND SAVE IT.
THAT'S WHY WE WERE HOPING WE COULD GET YOU TO REJOIN.
WHAT?
NO WAY, MAN.
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET IT DIE?
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT USAMI, OF ALL PEOPLE, ACTUALLY WANTS ME BACK?
I MEAN, I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT.
WELL ...
IF YOU ASK USAMI, I'M JUST NOT PASSIONATE ENOUGH ABOUT THE OUENDAN, REMEMBER?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

AND HONESTLY, I DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THE OUENDAN'S TRADITIONS OR PRIDE OR WHATEVER.
IF THE OUENDAN'S THAT CLOSE TO FALLING APART,
MAYBE IT'S JUST TIME.

YEAH, WHO CARES ABOUT THE OUENDAN?
IT'S ALL GOOD AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY, IS THAT IT?

HUH?
SHUF
?!
IMA-MURA! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I DUNNO.
SCARY.
WAIT, WHAT? DID I SAY SOMETHING TO UPSET HIM?
WHO WAS THAT BLOND GUY, ANYWAY?
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE NOW!
IMAMURA!
THOSE GUYS ARE SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS!
THE HELL I CAN'T!


ON ONE HAND, YOU'VE GOT THAT HIERARCHY-OBSESSED MEATHEAD!
This is Chan Kuma.
He was my kohai in the ouendan
Glad this, he grew up overseas!
Very nice to meet you!
AND THEN YOU'VE GOT MR. POPULAR, WHO DOESN'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD AS LONG AS HE'S HAVING FUN!

I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE'S WORSE!
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
HEY, COME ON.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO GET THE OUENDAN BACK TOGETHER.
OKUMA!
YES?

THEY WERE BOTH EXTREMELY GOOD AT WHAT THEY DID.
...
WHY WERE THOSE GUYS EVEN IN THE OUENDAN?

...HAD FRIENDS IN A LOT OF THE OTHER SPORTS CLUBS, AND HIS ABILITY TO GATHER INTEL ON OTHER SCHOOLS WAS UNMATCHED.
AND VICE-CAPTAIN OKAMOTO-SENPAI ...
...COULD PROJECT HIS VOICE THROUGH-OUT AN ENTIRE STADIUM, AND NO ONE COULD MATCH THE GRACE AND ACCURACY OF HIS MOVES.
CHEER SERGEANT SUGA-SENPAI ...

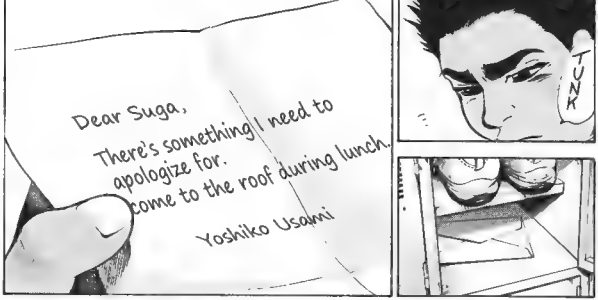
I'D LIKE...
...TO CHEER WITH THEM AGAIN.

WELL, AS THINGS STAND, NONE OF THE THIRD-YEARS ARE ON BOARD.
IMA-MURA-KUN,
THE INTERCLUB TRAINING SESSION IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

THE SECOND YEARS TOLD US NO YESTER-DAY.
YOU MUST BE JOK-ING!
WHY THE HELL WOULD WE DO THAT AFTER WE MANAGED TO RE-CAST?
AND THE FIRST YEARS WHO JOINED TENTATIVELY ARE PROBABLY JUST GONNA STICK TO CAPTAIN ABE'S PLAN AND QUIT ALL AT ONCE.
OH!
SO AT THIS RATE ...
THE OUENDAN IS GONNA END UP JUST AS DEAD AS IT WAS BEFORE!
YOU GET THAT?
IMA-MURA!

GRAB
ACK!
ALL RIGHT.
THEN LET'S GIVE IN.
EXCUSE ME?

GOOD MORNING!
MORNING!


Dear Suga,
There's something I need to apologize for.
Come to the roof during lunch.
Yoshiko Usami
TUNK

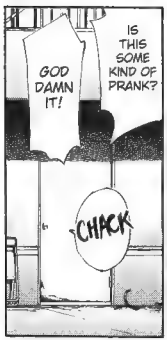
AFTER ALL THIS TIME!
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE ...
UGH!
...

WHAM
3F
2F

SUGA-SENPAI?!
WHOA!

ME, TOO. SHE LEFT IT IN MY LOCKER.
NO, I GOT A LETTER FROM SOME GIRL. DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH, SAME.

DID USAMI TELL YOU GUYS TO COME HERE, TOO?
YOU WERE IN THE OUENDAN LAST YEAR, WEREN'T YOU?
HEY ...
HUH?


GOD DAMN IT!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF PRANK?
CHACK

WHERE ARE THEY?
I GOT ONE, TOO.
THIS CHEERLEADER LEFT ME A LETTER THAT SAID TO MEET HER HERE.
IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE NEW MEMBERS OF THE OUENDAN.
WHAT'S WITH THE FIRST YEARS?

HUH?
OKA?!
WHAT'S EVERY-BODY DOING HERE?
GOOD QUES-TION.
YOU GOT A LETTER, TOO, HUH?
OH, NO.
ACTU-ALLY ...
SHAKE SHAKE
CHAN-KUMA BROUGHT ME HERE.
THUNK
?!
ALL RIGHT!
LOOKS LIKE EVERYBODY MADE IT! WE'VE GOT ALL THE OUENDAN'S MEMBERS RIGHT HERE.

FWISH
TOMOR-ROW,
I WANT YOU TO HELP ME DESTROY THE OUENDAN ONCE AND FOR ALL!
I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
...AND ALL YOU SECOND- AND THIRD-YEARS WHO HATE THE CAPTAIN TOO MUCH TO REJOIN,
SO, ALL YOU FIRST-YEARS WHO THE CHEERLEADERS CAUGHT IN THEIR HONEYPOT...

12. EVERYBODY YELL NOW!

NO MORE OUENDAN! NO MORE OUENDAN!
WON'T IT BE SUCH A RELIEF TO BE RID OF THE OUENDAN?
TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT AN END TO THAT DAMNED OUENDAN!
HEY, IMAMURA...
ARE WE REALLY GONNA DO THIS?

UH!
I DON'T KNOW!
WHAT'S THIS ALL CHANABOUT? KUMA, WHAT'S HE WANT?
DIDN'T HE WANT TO SAVE THE OUENDAN JUST YESTERDAY?
HEY, WHAT'S BLONDIE TRYING TO SAY?

I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO.
I'VE GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU GUYS. GOOD WORK!
ESPECIALLY YOU FIRST-YEARS OVER THERE.
OKAY, PEOPLE!
CLAP
YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!
CLAP

LOOK HOW MANY NEW MEMBERS THE OUENDAN IS GETTING! ♥ AND I USED TO BE THE ONLY ONE. I MUST BE A BORN LEADER!
LET'S JOIN THE OUENDAN!
AS A REWARD, WE'LL LET YOU TOUCH A CHEERLEADER!
AND GET THAT PESKY CAPTAIN'S HOPES WAAAY UP! ♥
I WANT YOU GUYS TO ACT LIKE YOU'RE JOINING THE OUENDAN,
NOW, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THE TALE OF THE CHEERLEADERS' CAPTAIN, ABETAMA, AND HER HONEYPOT STRATEGY.
YAAAY!

...AS PLANNED, THE CHEERLEADERS' PLANTS QUIT THE OUENDAN.
AND SO ...
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT ON YOUR OWN.
THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE. OUR REPUTATION WILL BE RUINED!
WHAT?!
WE QUIT. BEING IN THE OUENDAN IS TOO HARD.
THEN, ON THE DAY OF THE INTER-CLUB TRAINING ...

HA!
HUH?

I NOMI
I DON'T THINK THE OUENDAN'S CAPTAIN IS FIT TO BE THE CHEER DIRECTOR IF SHE CAN'T EVEN RETAIN HER CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP!
FROM NOW ON, THE CHEERLEADING CLUB SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN PROMO-TING KABOSU MINAMI SCHOOL SPIRIT! W

ピク
TWITCH

DO WE EVEN NEED AN OUENDAN ANYMORE IF NO ONE WANTS TO JOIN IT?
IT DOESN'T HELP THAT THE CAPTAIN'S A GIRL!
THEY MAKE US LOOK BAD!
OUR OUENDAN IS BEHIND THE TIMES!
IT'LL LOOK WAY BETTER TO HAVE CHEER-LEADERS AT OUR GAMES!
THAT'S RIGHT!
No way
Nah
Just 'cause she's got a pretty face doesn't mean she can boss everyone around!
That old-fashioned stuff is so lame
And only are mem-ber of the ouen-dan!
There are so many of them!
KA-NAN
KA-NAN
KA-NAN

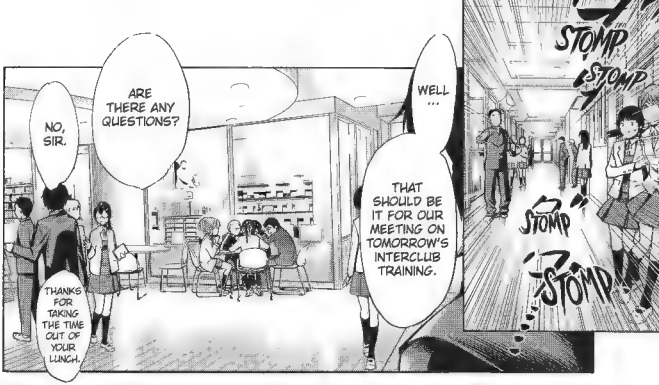
...THIS WAS THE YEAR KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN SAW THE CURTAIN FALL ON ITS LONG AND STORIED HISTORY.
AND THUS, LEFT UNNEEDED AND UNWANTED ...

KAPOW!
RRRRIP!
THERE!
RRRRIP
BOUNCE
WHOA!

HUSH
ALL THEY TOLD ME WAS THAT THE OUENDAN'S CAPTAIN WAS GETTING TOO FULL OF HERSELF AND CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE, SO THEY NEEDED MY HELP.
THAT'S NO REASON TO LET THE CHEER-LEADERS KILL THE OUENDAN AND TAKE IT'S PLACE!
IF WE LET THOSE TRAMPS' HEADS GET ANY BIGGER THAN THEY ALREADY ARE, THEY'RE GONNA MAKE A LAUGHING STOCK OF KANAN!
R-RIGHT?
I MEAN, WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE DESTROYING THE OUENDAN STUFF.
Y-YEAH.
FIRST-YEARS!
IS THIS ALL TRUE?
HUH?!

WHO KNOWS?
IS EXPOSING WHAT'S GOING ON LIKE THIS SUPPOSED TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING?
HEY.
CHATTER
CHATTER
BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT I WASN'T GOING TO GET ANYWHERE BY ASKING THEM TO HELP SAVE THE QUENDAN.
SO, IF THEY'D RATHER JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY AND LET IT FALL APART...
BUT NONE OF THEM WANT TO DO ANYTHING FOR IT, EITHER.
NONE OF THEM REALLY WANT IT GONE.
...THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS MAKE THEM OUT TO BE THE VERY ONES WHO ARE DESTROYING IT.

OH, I'VE GOT IT! LET'S BREAK ALL THEIR CLUB ROOM'S WINDOWS!
SWING
SWING
COME ON, GUYS.
HOW DO YOU WANNA DESTROY THE OUENDAN?
AND THEN MAYBE WE CAN BURN THEIR FLAG!
Cool, he's dancing in pajamas?!
I didn't say that!
BAM BAM BAM
Okay then, I guess everyone would be better off if I just died
Stop it, Imaimura-san!
IT'S A LITTLE TRICK I COOKED UP TO COUNTER MY HALF-HEARTED CHILDHOOD BULLIES.
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS HAM IT UP AND PLAY THE BAD GUY, AND EVERYONE WOULD GET TOO FREAKED OUT TO MESS WITH ME.
ULP...
WE ALL HATE THE OUENDAN, AFTER ALL. RIGHT?
WINK
IF WE DON'T STAND UP FOR IT, WHO WILL?
WE CAN'T ALLOW THE OUENDAN TO BE REPLACED BY THOSE TRASHY CHEER-LEADERS!
ROOOOOAR
WHERE THE HELL IS USAMI?!
HUH?
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY. TOMORROW, WE-
GREAT! HE'S PLAYING RIGHT INTO MY HAND.


ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?
NO, SIR.
WELL ...
THAT SHOULD BE IT FOR OUR MEETING ON TOMORROW'S INTERCLUB TRAINING.
THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME OUT OF YOUR LUNCH.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

OF COURSE, IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE CONCERT BAND AND THE BASEBALL CLUB TO HAVE A LOT OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING, BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.
I THINK IT'LL BE A GOOD ONE THIS YEAR.

UH-HUH.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TOMORROW.
EXCUSE ME.

GRRIT
IT'S A MIRACLE!
AND I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THE OUENDAN HAD TEN WHOLE NEW MEMBERS!
YEAH, AT THIRTY PEOPLE, WE HAVE MORE CHEERLEADERS THAN WE'VE EVER HAD BEFORE!

OH!
USAMI-SAN, HOLD UP A SECOND!

HERE YOU GO.
EVERYONE IN THE CHEERLEADING CLUB GOT JUICE, SO I THOUGHT I'D SHARE SOME WITH YOU.
Lycopene
?
Lycopene
GRAB
HEY USAMI!!

WE'RE GONNA PARTICI-PATE...
...IN TOMOR-ROW'S INTERCLUB TRAINING SESSION!
SUGA ...?!
HEY!
WAIT! HOLD UP!
YOU'RE BEING WAY TOO RECK-LESS!
JUST LEAVE EVERY-THING TO ME, LISAM!
GGH

ABE-TAMA!
I'VE SEEN THROUGH YOUR PLAN!
?!
V POINT!
W-WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T GET IT...
YOU USED YOUR CLUB'S MEMBERS AS HONEY-POTS TO-
SUGA-CHAN, WAIT.
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE AN ENEMY OUT OF EVERY GIRL IN THE SCHOOL IF YOU HUMILIATE HER LIKE THIS, WHETHER IT'S JUSTIFIED OR NOT.
THERE ARE TEACHERS HERE, TOO. FOR NOW, WE SHOULD PLAY UP WHAT A WEAK POSITION WE'RE IN.
OH... RIGHT.
HMM ...
THAT'S IT.
RAGE

AT TOMORROW'S INTER-CLUB TRAINING,
I'M GONNA BE THE CAPTAIN!
BAM
YOU'RE NO LONGER FIT TO SERVE, USAMI!
?!
WAIT, STOP. TIME OUT!
FWISH
THAT'S NOT WHERE I WANT THIS DO-OVER TO GO.
THE OUENDAN IS ABOUT TO FALL APART BECAUSE OF YOU.
YOU HAVE A DUTY TO STEP DOWN AS CAPTAIN.
YOU THINK THE OUENDAN'S GOING TO FALL APART BECAUSE OF ME...?
...
I KNEW IT ALL ALONG.
A WOMAN JUST ISN'T CUT OUT FOR THIS JOB.

Sorry for the commotion folks. Just keep walking.
SHE DOES HAVE A POINT.
THAT'S WHY OKA'S THE ONE WHO GOT TO BE VICE-CAPTAIN.
PEOPLE WON'T LIKE THE OUENDAN IF YOU'RE CAPTAIN, SUGA!
YOUR EGO'S TOO BIG!
MY VOICE IS LOUDER THAN YOURS, USAMI, AND MY MOVES ARE BETTER, TOO.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, TRYING TO PROTECT IT ALL ON MY OWN?!
YOU GUYS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE GONNA MAKE IT FALL APART!
AND NOW THIS? AFTER YOU ABANDONED THE OUEN-DAN? DON'T KID YOURSELF!
WHY DO YOU TRY TO HANDLE EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN?
THEN HOW COME YOU NEVER ASKED US FOR HELP, USAMI?
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN TRIED TO APOLOGIZE!

THAT'S THE THING ABOUT YOU, USAMI.
THAT'S ONE OF YOUR BIGGEST FLAWS AS CAPTAIN.
HON-ESTLY,
I AGREE.
THE OUENDAN'S JOB IS TO SUPPORT OTHERS,
SO WHY IS ITS CAPTAIN SO BAD AT ACCEPTING HELP?

THWUNK
NOW ...
QUIT BEING SO STUB-BORN ...
SQUEEZE
...AND LET US BE THERE FOR YOU.
Ouch!!!
ROLL
ROLL

I DON'T EVER WANNA SEE YOUR STUPID FACES AGAIN!
ROAR
THE OUENDAN IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU PUNKS!
WELL, THERE'S NO TAKING THAT BACK...
SIGH...

YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE TO STICK AROUND, EITHER.
HEY.
...

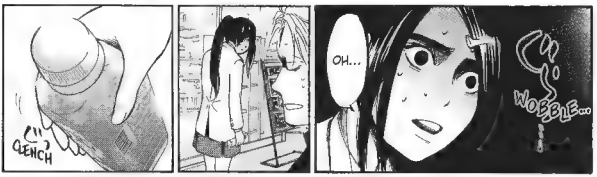
WELL...
I GUESS NOT.
OH.

...

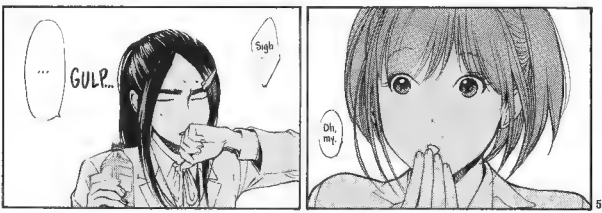
SIGH...
YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE.
BYE.

YOU'RE EVEN WORSE THAN THE CHEERLEADERS.
FINE.
STOMP
STOMP

SAME HERE. THEY JUST WON'T BUDGE.
YEAH, MY PARENTS KEEP TELLING ME TO QUIT.
I NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON MY STUDIES.
SAME
YEAH, ME TOO.
SORRY!
UH ...
WE'D LIKE TO QUIT THE OUENDAN, TOO.

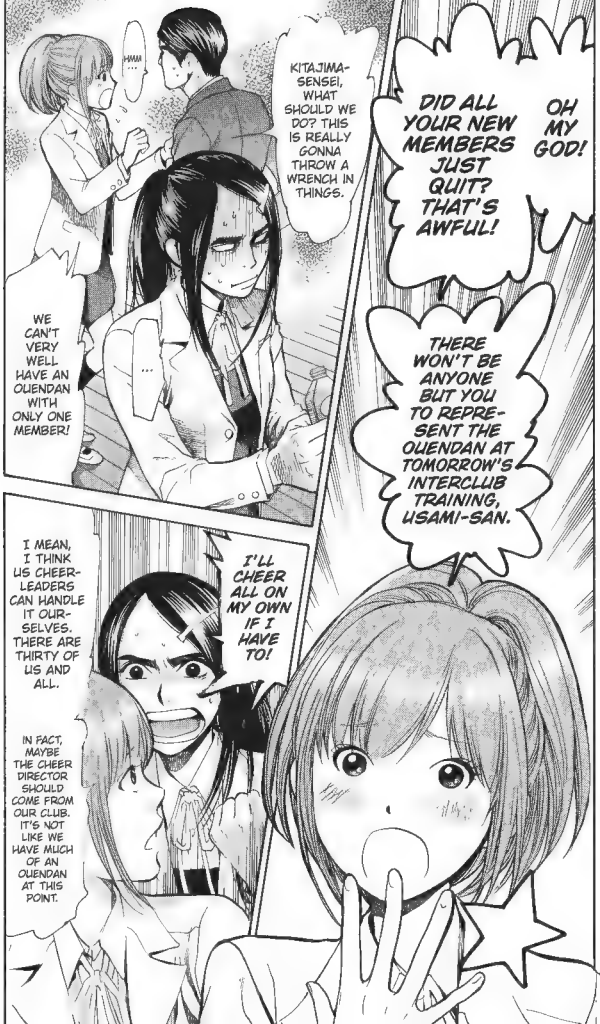

QUENCH
OH...
WOBBLE...

GLUG
GLUG
GLUGGLUG


...
GULP...
Sigh
Oh, my.

ROAR
IF YOU DON'T WANNA GIVE THE OUENDAN YOUR ALL, THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF MY SIGHT!
OKAY...
SILENCE!
I COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND BRING THE OUENDAN'S OLD MEMBERS BACK TOGETHER A HUNDRED TIMES...
OH, LISAMI... WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? THIS IS REALLY BAD.
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S DOOMED TO FALL APART, UNLESS THE CAPTAIN CAN CHANGE HER TUNE.
I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG...
SHE'S LIKE A LITTLE KID.

13. THE DAY BEFORE THE BIG DAY


OH MY GOD!
DID ALL YOUR NEW MEMBERS JUST QUIT? THAT'S AWFUL!
THERE WON'T BE ANYONE BUT YOU TO REPRESENT THE OUENDAN AT TOMORROW'S INTERCLUB TRAINING, USAMI-SAN.
I'LL CHEER ALL ON MY OWN IF I HAVE TO!
I MEAN, I THINK US CHEERLEADERS CAN HANDLE IT OURSELVES. THERE ARE THIRTY OF US AND ALL.
IN FACT, MAYBE THE CHEER DIRECTOR SHOULD COME FROM OUR CLUB. IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE MUCH OF AN OUENDAN AT THIS POINT.
KITAJIMA-SENSEI, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? THIS IS REALLY GONNA THROW A WRENCH IN THINGS.
HMMM...
...
WE CAN'T VERY WELL HAVE AN OUENDAN WITH ONLY ONE MEMBER!

OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE STILL SORE THAT YOUR CLUB HAD TO TAKE A HIATUS DURING OUR FIRST YEAR, AREN'T YOU?
?!
Y'KNOW, I SEEM TO REMEMBER THAT BEING YOUR FAULT, ABE!
WE...!
IF YOU HADN'T OPENED YOUR BIG MOUTH, WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A PROBLEM!
I JUST ANSWERED A TEACHER'S QUESTION!
YOU JUST HAD TO GO AND TATTLE!
IF YOU GUYS HADN'T BEEN ...
WHOA ...
THEY'RE GOING AT EACH OTHER LIKE A COUPLE OF DOGS.
WHAT'S THE DEAL?
SENSEI.
The girls are fighting, just so you know.

AS A RESULT, THE CHEERLEADING CLUB GOT PUT ON TEMPORARY HIATUS, AND THERE'S BEEN BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THEM AND THE OUENDAN EVER SINCE.
A BUNCH OF GIRLS FROM THE CHEERLEADING CLUB WENT TO HANG OUT IN THE BOYS' ROOM, AND THEY GOT CAUGHT WHEN USAMI BLURTED OUT THE TRUTH TO THE TEACHER WHO CAME TO CHECK ON THEM.
IT STARTED DURING AN OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP IN THEIR FIRST YEAR.
YOU SEEM TO BE IN THE KNOW.
The boys' room...
Where did the other girls go?

MAYBE IT'S ABOUT TIME I HAD THEM PUT A STOP TO IT... HOO, BOY.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THEM TO MAKE UP, BUT THEY JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET OVER IT.
WHAT A JOKE ...

YOU TWO.
CUT THAT OUT. NOW.
FLINCH!
AS WE DECIDED, THE CAPTAIN OF THE OUENDAN IS GOING TO DIRECT TOMORROW'S INTERCLUB TRAINING.
THERE, YOU ARE TO WORK OUT HOW THE CHEERLEADING CLUB AND THE OUENDAN WILL COOPERATE IN SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL GOING FORWARD.
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
YES, SIR ...
OH, AND DON'T YOU BOYS WORRY. JUST STICK TO WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT TODAY.
RIGHT ...
CAN WE GO NOW?

OKAY, LUNCH IS OVER. GET BACK TO CLASS.
DING DONG
I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, USAMI-SAN.
ALL RIGHT.
DOOONG
DOOONG
GRAB!!!
DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH ANYTHING.
PULL ANY FUNNY BUSINESS WITH THE OUENDAN TOMORROW...
...AND I'LL SPAM THE ENTIRE SCHOOL WITH MESSAGES ABOUT YOUR HONEYPOT SCHEME.

WELL, BYE!
I'M NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING TOMORROW.
BUMP
BUMP
チラ
GLANCE
DON'T MAKE WEIRD ACCUSATIONS LIKE THAT.
WAIT, WHAT? You're scaring me.
JERK
NOT LIKE WE CAN TRUST HER AT THIS POINT.
BADUMP BADUMP
BADUMP BADUMP
I'VE GOT A FEELING SHE'S STILL HIDING SOMETHING.
FEH
AND CAPTAIN, WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
COME ON.
AFTER I–

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
HUH?
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY...
I THOUGHT IT WAS A TRAP OF ABE'S,
BUT I GUESS YOU HAD ME FOOLED, TOO.
...ABOUT HOW QUICKLY I GOT ALL THOSE NEW MEMBERS.

EVERY-THING'S GOTTEN WEIRD SINCE YOU SHOWED UP!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
KERTHUMP
WE ALWAYS LOSE WHEN YOU SHOW UP.
GOD!
IT'S ALL IMAMURA'S FAULT WE LOST.
NOT AGAIN!

EXCUSE ME,
BUT THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING. THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF THE CHEERLEADERS.
HUH?
HEY! HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO CLASS!
...
?!
IMAMURA!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THE CLASSROOMS ARE THE OTHER WAY.
IMAMURA!
UM...
CAPTAIN...
THWUNK

I SHOULDN'T HAVE...
...TRIED TO CHANGE THINGS.
NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES...
...OF ASSOCIATING WITH ME.
WHAT'S HE THINKING?
UGGH.
HE NEVER CAME BACK FOR AFTERNOON CLASSES, OR EVEN TO GET HIS THINGS.
YEAH.
YOU'RE TELLING ME IMAMURA JUST WENT STRAIGHT HOME?
WAIT!
SO WHAT MADE ME THINK THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA?
I FIGURED THAT OUT LONG BEFORE I WENT BACK IN TIME.
OSU!!
OSU!!
OSU!!

RIGHT...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? LET'S GO.
OKA!
...
KOFF

YEAH, HE THINKS MAKING ENOUGH NOISE WILL SOLVE ANYTHING.
UGH.
SUGA-SENPAI JUST CAN'T KEEP IT DOWN.
MISTER
COME ON! LOUDER, MEN!

"AND NOW THIS? AFTER YOU ABANDONED THE QUENDAN? DON'T KID YOURSELF!"
"YOU GUYS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE GONNA MAKE IT FALL APART!"
RAAAGH!!
FWOOOO-
QUIT HALF-ASSING IT, YOU SLACKERS!
YES, SIR!
KAWAH
ONCE TOMORROW'S INTERCLUB TRAINING IS OVER, I'LL MAKE SURE SHE'LL THINK TWICE ABOUT DOUBLE-CROSSING ME AGAIN.
STEAM
DAMN IT. REO'S GOT SOME NERVE, BETRAYING US LIKE THAT.
THIS IS WHY YOU CAN'T COUNT ON THE CLEVER ONES.
CAPTAIN ABE,
HOW'D THINGS GO WITH THAT PLASTIC BOTTLE?
OH YEAH,
USAMI DRANK FROM IT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
OF COURSE, I DOUBT THAT'LL BE ENOUGH TO GET HER SICK...
GERMS AND ALL.
...BUT IT CAN'T HURT, RIGHT?
KOFF KOFF
THUD

WE'LL SHOW HER THAT A ONE-MEMBER OUENDAN IS NO MATCH FOR THIRTY CHEER-LEADERS.
AND IT SEEMS LIKE THE TEMPER-ATURE'S GONNA DROP TO-MORROW.
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE LISAMI WILL CATCH A COLD.
Unless she can't even catch that
くしゅん
AC-OO
SNIFFLE
?

HEY! ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME, KIN-CHAN?
TO-MORROW'S SUPPOSED TO BE A COLD ONE.
THE WIND'S REALLY PICKED UP ALL OF A SUDDEN.

COMING!
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER
DING-
DOONG
GO GET CHANGED OUT OF THAT UNIFORM!
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING BUT LIE AROUND SINCE YOU GOT HOME.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...
IS KINICHIRO-KUN HOME?
HE FORGOT SOME THINGS AT SCHOOL.
?!
IT CAN'T BE. THAT VOICE...
YOU MUST BE KIN-CHAN'S FRIENDS...?
YES MA'AM.
WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT?!
GRAB
NO!

I HOPE YOU DIDN'T THINK ...
...THAT YOU COULD JUST GIVE UP AND RUN AWAY AFTER DRAGGING US INTO THIS!
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT OTHER PEOPLE TO CHEER IF YOU WON'T EVEN DO IT YOURSELF?!
WHOA, UH, I'M NOT REALLY INTO THAT KIND OF THING.

HUH?
GRAB
WE HAVE LOTS OF TIME...
...FOR SPECIAL TRAINING!
THERE ARE STILL MANY, MANY HOURS BEFORE THE MORROW!

OH, LET ME HELP WITH THAT...
...MOTHER.
COME ON IN! WOULD YOU KIDS LIKE SOME DINNER? I'M MAKING SOUP.
WHAT?
SO!
HEY, WAIT!
WE'RE COMING IN!
EEE! ♥
DID YOU HEAR THAT KIN-CHAN? SHE CALLED ME MOTHER!
GET A GRIP, MOM!
HAHAHAHA...
AGGGGH
YAAAAY

...AREN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST DECIDE TO END ON YOUR OWN.
...ARE SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS.
OTHER PEOPLE...
APPARENTLY, HUMAN CONNECTIONS...

Again!!
アゲイン!!

14.
ALL NIGHT PARTY!

NORMALLY, THIS WOULD TAKE THREE MONTHS, BUT I'M GOING TO TEACH IT ALL TO YOU IN ONE NIGHT!
TO BEGIN, OPEN YOUR STUDENT HANDBOOK TO THE SCHOOL AND SPIRIT SONGS SO WE CAN MEMORIZE THE LYRICS.
OUR SCHOOL'S SONG, OUR FIRST AND SECOND SPIRIT SONGS, AND TEN OF OUR BASEBALL CHEERS.
HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL LEARN TO-NIGHT:
I WANT YOU TO MASTER THEM AND THE APPRO-PRIATE CHOREO-GRAPHY DOWN TO A T.
KAFWING

I'M PEELING THE APPLES!
WE'RE GOING TO MARCH UP AND JOIN HER. WHO CAN SAY NO TO THE CAVALRY?
THAT'S WHY, WHEN THE CAPTAIN IS STARTING TO BE OVER-WHELMED BY THE CHEER-LEADERS' SUPERIOR NUMBERS,
I KNOW THAT!
SHAKE
SHAKE
NO.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF ME LEARNING ALL THAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THE CAPTAIN WOULD LET ME PARTICIPATE IN TOMORROW'S INTERCLUB TRAINING EVEN IF I WANTED TO.
REALLY? GOOD!
OH, THANK YOU, THIS SOUP IS GREAT, BY THE WAY!

STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM THAT DOOR IF YOU WANNA LIVE.
I won't look for your dirty magazines. Promise!
IT'S OKAY IF I GO IN, RIGHT?
IS THIS YOUR ROOM, IMAMURA?

STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM MY GRANDMA IF YOU WANNA LIVE.
How long was it before he stopped wetting himself?
Huh
Little Kin-chan was always wetting himself, you know.
And then I'd wash his underwear and

...
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEEEE
OOOH! I HOPE WE HAVE ENOUGH FUTONS FOR EVERYONE!
OKAY!
You're so tall! It's amazing! And handsome!
FEEL FREE TO SPEND THE NIGHT IF YOU'D LIKE!
OH, YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO BE HERE LATE? NO PROBLEM AT ALL!

AND YOU GUYS, GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!
MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS, MOM!

LOOK, I KNOW YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BE A LITTLE REBELLIOUS AS A TEENAGER, BUT JUST DON'T BREAK THE LAW OR DO ANYTHING THAT'LL COST US MONEY, OKAY?
YOUR GRANDMA AND I ARE GETTING TOO OLD TO SET YOU STRAIGHT EVERY TIME YOU START DOWN THE WRONG PATH.
YOU WANT SECONDS, RIGHT?
YEAH
IT'S JUST— YOU'VE NEVER BROUGHT FRIENDS OVER BEFORE...
I'M SORRY IF I GOT TOO EXCITED.
JUST DON'T FLIP THE TABLE AGAIN ...
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE CRYING! THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU!
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
I've never flipped the table, not even once.
ANYWAY, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE IN THE OUENDAN, KIN-CHAN!
OF ALL THE THINGS, AND AFTER YOU WERE SO HESITANT TO JOIN A CLUB!
PFFFT
SHUT UP.
ACTUALLY, I WENT TO KABOSU MINAMI MYSELF,
AND WE HAD AN OUENDAN BACK THEN, TOO!
WOW!
REALLY?

BACK IN THOSE DAYS, THEY WERE VERY INTIMI-DATING!
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THEY WERE BAD NEWS, MAYBE EVEN INVOLVED WITH THE YAKUZA OR SOMETHING!
I COULDN'T IMAGINE WHY THE SCHOOL WOULD LET DELIN-QUENTS LIKE THEM RUN WILD!
AND WHEN THE REST OF US STUDENTS TRIED TO CHEER WITH THEM, THEY WOULD ALWAYS YELL AT US, LIKE, "YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING!" OR "I CAN'T HEAR YOU!" THEY GOT SO SCARY SOME GIRLS EVEN FAINTED.
WHOA!
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THEY WERE VERY NICE.
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THE CLUB USED TO BE MUCH HARSHER.

?

BUT...
EVENTUALLY, WE COULDN'T HELP BUT BE MOVED BY HOW MUCH SPIRIT THEY HAD.
BEFORE WE KNEW IT, WE WERE TOTALLY CAUGHT UP IN CHEERING ALONG WITH THEM.
EVERYONE LOVED THE OUENDAN BACK THEN.
THEY WERE JUST SO COOL!

READY TO START TRAINING, CHAN-KUMA?
YEAH.
We're old school!
UH ...
YEAH. THAT.
SO, WHAT'S IT LIKE THESE DAYS?
FLINCH!!

YOU GIRLS GET OUT OF HERE!
?

SCRITCH SCRITCH
OH GOD ...
ARE YOU SURE THERE'S EVEN A POINT IN ME TRYING TO HELP?
OF COURSE THERE'S A POINT!
YOU COULD PROBABLY DO IT ON YOUR OWN.
COME BACK SOON!

THE OUENDAN NEEDS EVERY PERSON WE CAN GET!
LET'S BEGIN BY REVIEW-ING THIS DVD.
Do you have a DVD player or a computer we can use?

THIS IS A RECORDING OF THE REAL THING.
THE OUENDAN, THE CHEERLEADERS, THE BASEBALL CLUB, AND THE CONCERNT BAND ALL SHOW UP FOR REAL GAMES,
NOT TO MENTION A LOT OF STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND ALUMNI.
ACTING AS THE CHEER DIRECTOR, OUR CAPTAIN ORGANIZES EVERYONE INTO WHAT WE CALL THE GRAND OUENDAN.
THE OUENDAN IS AT ITS BEST WHEN IT'S DOING THESE BASEBALL CHEERS.

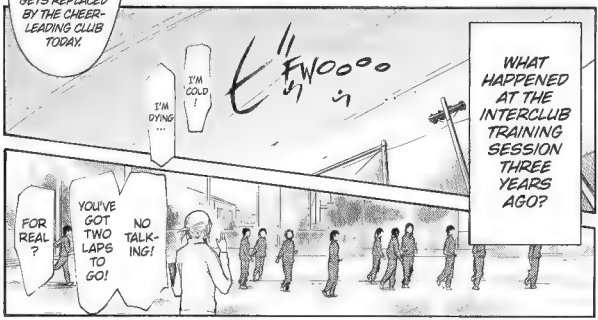
KANAME'S CHANCE!
EVERY SINGLE PERSON COUNTS WHEN WE RAISE OUR VOICES AND CHEER OUR SCHOOL ON.
EVEN IF ALL SOMEONE CAN DO IS YELL AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS, THAT'S ENOUGH.
I HAD A BETTER TIME THAN I EVER DID BEFORE OR SINCE AS A MEMBER OF THE OUENDAN THAT DAY.
YAMAHA

I NEVER GOT THAT INTO ANYTHING DURING MY THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL...
...BUT MAYBE THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT IF I'D ACTUALLY TRIED SOMETHING.
SO, I GUESS... IT'S OKAY IF I JUST STAND IN BACK YELLING AND IMITATING WHAT YOU GUYS DO, RIGHT?
'CAUSE THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA MEMORIZE ALL THIS IN ONE NIGHT.
DON'T YOU WORRY! ANY MOTHER-FUCKER COULD LEARN THIS STUFF EASY!
HEY!
DON'T BE TOO LOUD, OKAY?
RIGHT...

IMAMURA-SAMA, YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE SAVED THE OUENDAN. THANK YOU SO MUCH.
WE DID IT!
THE OUENDAN EMERGES VICTORIOUS!
I'M SO MAD!
WOBBLE WOBBLE
HRRRRK!
NOW, YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR OLD LIFE.
KIN-CHAN! TIME TO GET UP!
GASP!!
HEY! YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE!

DAMN IT!
I ONLY REMEMBER BITS AND PIECES.
TRY TO GO BACK OVER IT IN CLASS.
CHAT CHAT CHAT CHAT
I HAD SOME WEIRD DREAMS ...
AGGGH.
IT'S SO FREAKING COLD TODAY.
HWOOO

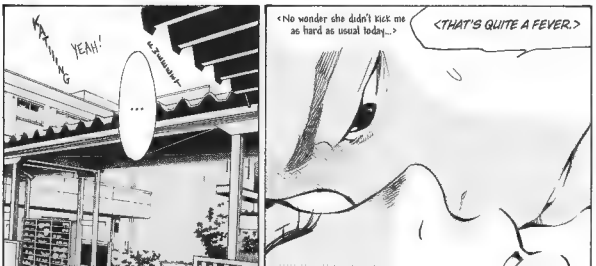
CHAN-KUMA, DO YOU EVER LEARN?
SHE SEEMS FINE TO ME.
...
THE CAPTAIN SEEMS READY TO TAKE ON THE INTERCLUB TRAINING ALL ON HER OWN.
I'M HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING THE OUENDAN GETS REPLACED BY THE CHEER-LEADING CLUB TODAY.


WHAT HAPPENED AT THE INTERCLUB TRAINING SESSION THREE YEARS AGO?
I'M COLD!
I'M DYING...
NO TALK-ING!
YOU'VE GOT TWO LAPS TO GO!
FOR REAL?

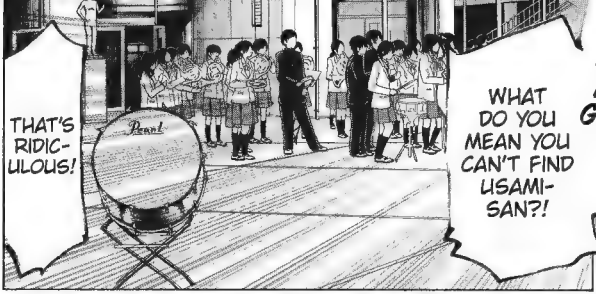
HAVING P.E. FOR FIFTH PERIOD SUCKS!
CLAT CLAT, CLAT
PANT
PANT
KOFF
ARE YOU FEELING ILL, USAMI-SAN?
YOU SHOULDVE TOLD ME.
HEAD ON DOWN TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

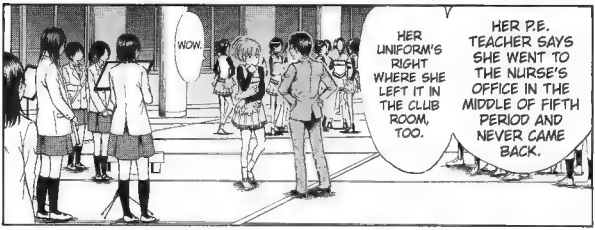
STAGGER
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
GASP
CLATTER
WHAT IS IT, OKUMA ?!
OKUMA ?!
GLANCE
GLANCE
SNIF SNIF
HUH ?!

CAP-
TAIN
!
CAP-
TAIN.
ARE
YOU
OKAY?
TUP


KA-
YEAH!
...
<No wonder she didn't kick me as hard as usual today...>
<THAT'S QUITE A FEVER.>

<I'LL HAVE TO RAISE HER INTERNAL TEMPERATURE THROUGH SKIN-ON-SKIN CONTACT AND THEN PERFORM CPR.>
CRACK
?!
CAP-TAIN ...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ...


OH MY GOD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T FIND USAMI-SAN?!
THAT'S RIDIC-ULOUS!
Pern!


WOW.
HER UNIFORM'S RIGHT WHERE SHE LEFT IT IN THE CLUB ROOM, TOO.
HER P.E. TEACHER SAYS SHE WENT TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE IN THE MIDDLE OF FIFTH PERIOD AND NEVER CAME BACK.

SO, LIKE, SHE DIDN'T WANNA BE THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE OUENDAN HERE, AND IS TRYING TO GET OUT OF IT?

APPAR-ENTLY, HE DISAP-PEARED DURING FIFTH PERIOD.
I CHECKED THE SECOND-YEAR CLASS-ROOMS BUT COULDN'T FIND HIM.
HEY. YOU KNOW WHERE CHAN-KUMA IS?
THE CAPTAIN'S NOT HERE?
HUH ...
THIS SEEMS PRETTY FISHY.

SO THIS IS HOW THE OUENDAN ENDS?
WAIT.
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED THREE YEARS AGO? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
WELL, WHY DON'T WE JUST GO AHEAD WITH THE INTERCLUB TRAINING WITHOUT THE OUENDAN,
SEN-SEI?
KANAN
UH-HMM...
THE CAPTAIN JUST...
...RAN AWAY?
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
KANAN

HUH?
THE OUEN-DAN'S GOT A SUBSTI-TUTE CAPTAIN!
IMA-MURA'S GONNA DO IT!

15. SCREW IT!

THE OUENDAN'S GOT A SUB-STITUTE CAPTAIN...
...AND IT'S IMA-MURA?!
N-NO WAY! I CAN'T!
I DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE AROUND WHO CAN STAND IN FOR CAPTAIN USAMI.
CHAN-KUMA TAUGHT YOU THE CHEERS LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?

STOP! QUIT PUSHING ME! I DON'T WANNA! JUST GO FIND THE CAPTAIN OR CHAN-KUMA!
WHAT-EVER. JUST GO DO IT.
SHOVE
SHOVE
NO NO NO NO NO! I THOUGHT I WAS JUST GONNA BE STANDING IN BACK COPYING EVERYONE ELSE! I DON'T ACTUALLY REMEMBER ANY OF IT! BESIDES, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OUENDAN ANYWAY! THERE'S NO WAY I CAN PULL IT OFF!

FWUMP!
QUIT MAKING EXCUSES AND GO DO YOUR PART!
GROW SOME FREAK-ING BALLS!

SHE SAID SHE WANTED THE NEW MEMBER, IMAMURA, TO ACT AS HER STAND-IN.
CAPTAIN USAMI ASKED US TO LET YOU KNOW THAT SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THE INTERCLUB TRAINING DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND HER CONTROL.
?!
RIGHT, IMA-MURA?

CHATTER...
WELL THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.
IT'S HER PERIOD.
SHE'S HOLED UP IN THE BATHROOM WITH SOME REALLY BAD CRAMPS.
USAMI CAN'T MAKE IT? SHE NEVER TOLD ME.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

IF USAMI-SAN ISN'T COMING, THEN LET'S JUST DO THE INTERCLUB TRAINING WITHOUT THE OUENDAN.
OH, COME ON.
Right? What makes her so special?
GOD, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WITH A PERIOD.

US CHEERLEADERS AND THE BASEBALL CLUB CAN HANDLE ALL THE CHEERING OURSELVES. YOU BOYS THINK SO, TOO, RIGHT?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A CHANCE, ABE?
HMM... BUT HE'S THE ONLY ONE HERE TO ACT AS THE OUENDAN'S CHEER DIRECTOR.

ALL HE'S GONNA DO IS GET IN THE WAY.
I MEAN, THIS IMAMURA GUY'S JUST A FIRST-YEAR, AND HE HASN'T EVEN BEEN PRACTICING OUR CHEERS.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
KAN
NAN
WHO IS HE?
KAN
YEAH.
PAT
PAT

I'VE BEEN IN THIS SITUATION MORE THAN ONCE BEFORE...
NOW NOW, PLAY NICE, BOYS!
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN WIN AT VOLLEYBALL WITH HIM ON BOARD.
UGH, WE GOT IMAMURA ON OUR TEAM?
OH GOD ...

HE SAID HE REALLY WANTS TO DO WHAT HE CAN FOR THE OUENDAN!
REALLY, I...
NO...
HE WAS UP ALL NIGHT TRAIN-ING.
OH, IMA-MURA'S GOT THIS!

HERE, YOU'LL NEED THIS ARM-BAND.
IN THAT CASE, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!
ALL RIGHT!
BAP-!!
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

I CAN SEE IT COMING.
DUUUUM
I'M ABOUT TO MAKE A GIANT FOOL OF MYSELF.
HUH?
HE'S SUPPOSED TO DIRECT THE CHEERS?
?!
HE'S JUST A FIRST-YEAR!
WHERE THE HELL IS USAMI?

YOU CAN DO IT, IMAMURA!
EMPTY INSIDE
ARE YOU OKAY, IMAMURA-KUN?
FIRST UP IS THE SCHOOL SONG!
IT'S THE SAME ONE USAMI DID AT YOUR ENTRANCE CEREMONY!
YOU HAVE TO YELL, "LET THE FIGHT SONG BEGIN!"

SILENCE
THE ONE THE CAPTAIN DID AT MY ENTRANCE CEREMONY?
WHAT WAS THAT ONE LIKE AGAIN?

THE MOVES WERE PRETTY SIMPLE... EVEN I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF...
SHWIF
L-

SHWOOM
LET THE FIGHT SONG...
BEGIN...
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING.
PFT
HEH HEH HEH!
HEY, DON'T LAUGH.
HE BARELY MADE A PEEP!
IMAMURA!
LOUDER!
WE CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I SAID I COULDN'T DO IT, DIDN'T I?
WHY ARE THEY DUMPING THIS JOB ON ME?
YOU'RE THE OUENDAN'S SUBSTITUTE CAPTAIN, SO ACT LIKE IT!

SHWIF
...BEGIN.
LET THE FIGHT SONG...
DOOOO
DOO DOOO
DOOO DOO
DOO DOOO
BEGIIIN TO BLOOM
THE CHERRRRY TREES

SO I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN BEING HERE, IS THERE?
IMAMURA! WAVE YOUR ARMS LIKE THIS!
DON'T FORGET YOU'RE THE CHEER DIRECTOR!
I CAN'T.
I CAN'T!!
...THEY COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE...
IT'S THAT FORMER MEMBER, OKA!
DUM
DADUM
OOOURS
DOOO
DOO
DADUM
DOOOO
DON'T TELL ME...
DUM
OH...
GOD!
YOU'RE JUST GONNA STAND THERE AND STARE?
MINNAAAMI HIGH
DOOO
DOOO
DOO
DOOO
DOOOO

YEP.
THERE'S RAKKI SUGA.
AND THERE ARE THE SECOND-YEARS WHO QUIT.
EVEN THE FIRST-YEARS WHO WENT ALONG WITH THE HONEY-POT SCHEME ARE HERE...
WHAT THE HELL, YOU GUYS?
YOU'RE JUST GONNA STARE IN SILENCE?
NOW, OUR FIRST SPIRIT SONG!
BAM!

KAN
KAN
KAN
KAN
US!
AAALL
SO, COME ALL, COME RALLY

THE CHEER-LEADERS AND THE GUYS FROM THE BASEBALL CLUB ARE JUST IGNORING HIM AND MOVING ALONG WITH THINGS, TOO.
MIIINAMI!
MIIINAMI!
UH-OH...
IMAMURA-KUN'S FROZEN UP.

HERE'S OUR CHANCE!
(BLANK)

WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO ENDS UP LIKE THIS?

EVERYONE ELSE IS HAVING SO MUCH FUN!

HERE'S OUR CHANCE!
HERE'S OUR CHANCE!
TUM
TUM
TUM
THEY'RE ALL JUST ACTING LIKE IT'S NOT THEIR PROBLEM.
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME.

THIS IS EXACTLY LIKE MY ORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL CAREER.
NO ONE'S GOING TO SAVE ME.
IS...
...IT FUN TO BE IN THE OUEN-DAN?

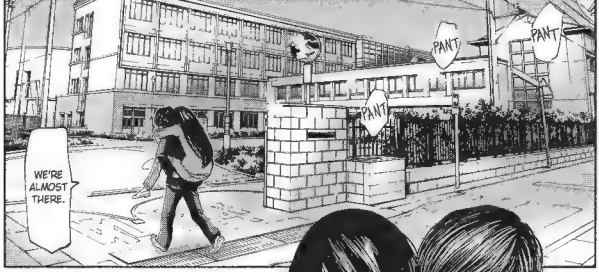
OF COURSE
IT'S FUN.

THIS ISN'T ANY FUN AT ALL!
HUH?
WHOA, SCARY.
IS HE MAD?
Creep

I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP OVER HERE!
SO BACK ME UP, YOU GUYS!
WAIT, WHAT?

Again!!
アゲイン!!

16.
RAW FEELINGS


PANT
PANT
PANT
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

NOD

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO JOIN IN THE INTERCLUB TRAINING?
UH, CAP-TAIN!

...EVEN THE DOCTOR SAID YOU SHOULD-N'T.
BUT ...

<LORD, PLEASE JUST LET US STAY LIKE THIS FOR A LITTLE LONGER.>
?
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
ALL RIGHT! I'M GOING!

OH.
TAP
TAP
TAP
IT'S LIKE I THOUGHT. THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED!
...HUH?
UH-OH...
THAT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...

SO BEING PART OF A CLUB MAKES YOU HOT STUFF, HUH?! GO AHEAD AND LAUGH IT UP!
YOU WANNA RUB IT IN MY FACE HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO HAVE FRIENDS? WELL, YOU MAKE ME SICK!
YOU THINK JUST BEING IN THE MAJORITY MAKES YOU RIGHT! YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO HIDE IT!
CHEERING? SCHOOL SPIRIT? GIVE ME A BREAK!
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
YOU'RE ALL JUST LIKE THOSE ASSHOLES WHO SPENT SO LONG PRETENDING THEY NEVER NOTICED ME!
I KNOW WHAT YOU THINK! YOU THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME!
YOU GUYS THINK IT'S ALL GOOD AS LONG AS YOU CAN HAVE YOUR FUN!

CAN YOU AT LEAST GET THAT THROUGH YOUR SKULLS ?!
...IS MAKING ME FEEL LIKE SHIT!
WELL, BEING IGNORED LIKE THIS...
GASP!

That guy has issues
Seriously
OH, NO
NO NO...
KANAN
OH NO...
OH-
GLANCE

I'M CREEPING EVERYONE OUT!
DID I REALLY JUST SAY ALL THAT?
I'M SO EMBARRASSED I WANNA DIE!
WHOA...
YOU MIGHT BE GETTING A LITTLE TOO EXCITED ABOUT YOUR SUPPOSED PERSECUTION OVER THERE. IT'S NOT A GOOD LOOK.
...
SENSEI...
EVEN KITAJIMA-SENSEI'S IGNORING ME!

IS HE GOING BERSERK?
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO?
EVERY... WHERE...
I'M NOT GOING BERSERK!
I'M NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT KIND OF GUY"?!
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THE COPS.
SO HE'S THAT KIND OF GUY, AFTER ALL.
WAIT A SECOND.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO--

HRAAAAH!
HURK
GUH.
I'M DY-
THE HELL YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOU LITTLE PUNK?
SPIT IT OUT.
I THOUGHT SOMETHING SEEMED OFF ABOUT YOU. TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE AFTER.
STOP, SUGA! STOP IT!
YOU'RE GONNA KILL HIM!
VIO-LENCE IS NOT THE ANSWER!

THIS HAS GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH A FIRST-YEAR LIKE YOU, SO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
I SAID STOP IT, MAN!
SHUT YOUR TRAP, UGLY!
IF YOU GUYS HAD ACTUALLY TRIED TO HELP INSTEAD OF JUST SITTING ON YOUR ASSES, IT WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO THIS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE TRYING TO COVER FOR USAMI AFTER SHE BAILED! I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU EMBARRASS THE OUENDAN ANY MORE THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE!
KOFF
KOFF
I THOUGHT YOU SAID USAMI-SAN WAS ON HER PERIOD.
HEY, THAT'S KIND OF MEAN. WHY AM I THE BAD GUY?
YOUR CAPTAIN DIDN'T BAIL! THERE'S A GOOD 80-90% CHANCE IT'S ABETAMA'S FAULT SHE COULDN'T MAKE IT! I'M SURE OF IT!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRAINING NOW?
SIGH
UHH, WE'RE NOT REALLY TRAINING AT THIS POINT.
THIS BORE
...NO ONE'S COMING TO MY RESCUE.
GRAAAH
AAAGH...
GRAAAH
NO MATTER HOW LONG I SIT AROUND WAITING...
BLAH BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH BLAH

IT'S ALL OF YOU WHO ARE DESTROY-ING IT!
IT'S NOT JUST THE CAPTAIN'S FAULT THAT THE OUENDAN'S GONNA FALL APART!
JOLT
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS HER FAULT, TOO.
AND YET, THE CAPTAIN MUST BE CRAZY, 'CAUSE SHE STILL STUCK WITH THE OUENDAN TILL THE BITTER END.
...
BUT YOU GUYS ARE WAY WORSE. YOU JUST IGNORE WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU LIKE IT'S SOME-BODY ELSE'S PROBLEM.
I NEVER SAID ANYTHING, 'CAUSE I DON'T LIKE RAISING MY VOICE IN PUBLIC OR STUFF LIKE THAT.
BUT WHEN THE CAPTAIN TOLD ME BEING IN THE OUENDAN WAS FUN, I DECIDED TO GIVE IT A SHOT.
THIS ISN'T ANY FUN AT ALL, THOUGH!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN ONE ONE-HUNDREDTH AS COOL AS THE CAPTAIN WAS WHEN SHE WAS CHEERING ALL ON HER OWN!
CHEERING WITH YOU GUYS WOULDN'T EVEN BE WORTH IT!
ALL I CAN DO...
...IS RAISE MY VOICE.
JUST GIVE IT UP ALREADY!
QUIT WASTING YOUR TIME WITH THESE STUPID CHEERS!

Oh god. he's coming for us now!
Eww!—
LEMME SEE SOME SMILES!
STEP...
AWW, AREN'T YOU GUYS SO HAPPY YOU MANAGED TO DESTROY THE QUEN-DAN?
STEP
YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO.
COME ON.
STEP
STEP
GLARE
FLINCH...
WHEEZ
PANT

I-
IMA-MURA-KUN!
THE CAP-TAIN'S HERE.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
SHE HAD TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL AND IT TOOK A WHILE.
THE HOS-PITAL?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
SIR,
I FOUND HER PASSED OUT FROM A COLD, SO I CARRIED HER TOWARDS THE HOSPITAL.
SHUF
THEY GAVE HER AN I.V., WHICH HELPED A LOT, BUT STILL...
CAP-TAIN!
STAGGER
WH-WHAT?

IF YOU'RE GONNA QUIT THE OUENDAN, THEN HURRY UP AND–
HOW DO YOU PLAN ON MAKING UP FOR THAT?
YOU'RE GETTING IN THE WAY OF EVERYONE ELSE'S TRAINING RIGHT NOW, USAMI-SAN!
KOFF
KOFF
I'M SORRY
TUMP
GIVE IT A REST, USAMI!
SHE–
SHE'S LOST HER VOICE!
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
CAP-TAIN!

COME BACK TO THE OUEN-DAN.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
I NEVER WAN-TED...
...TO ZTOP CHEER-ING TO-GETHER.

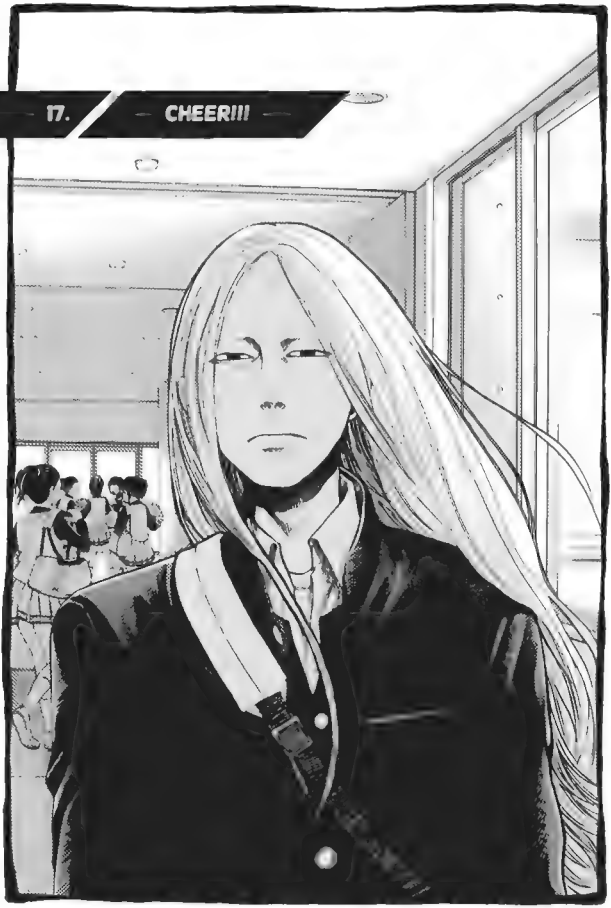
CAP-
TAIN!
PLEASE, LEAVE THE GROVELING TO ME!
がばっ
FLUMMMP
GOD DAMN IT, OKUMA!

I'VE SEEN SO MUCH GROVE-LING LATELY THAT I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT IT MEANS ANY-MORE.
PFT! HA!
...SHE NEVER HAD THE OPPOR-TUNITY TO DO THIS.
THREE YEARS AGO...

?!
ONCE YOU MANAGE TO PUSH PAST THE EMBARRASSMENT...
ガばばばば
FLUMMMMMP
I BEG OF YOU! PLEASE JOIN US IN THE OUEN-DAN!
WE'D ALSO APPRECIATE THE CHEERLEADERS' HELP!
WHAT ?!
WAIT A-
THE SAME GOES FOR THE BASEBALL CLUB AND THE CONCERT BAND!
ALL RIGHT!
WELL THEN, LET'S GET TO TRAINING!
CLAP
CLAP
...YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

I DID THINGS OVER AGAIN...
...JUST TO SEE THIS WORLD.

Again!!
アゲイン!!


17.
CHEER!!!

DA DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM DUM
DUM
USAMI, I KNOW YOU'VE LOST YOUR VOICE, BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STILL DO THE MOVES?
TODAY'S JUST PRACTICE, ANYWAY. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE THE ORDERS.
ME AND SUGA WILL TAKE CARE OF THE CHEERING.
HEY, WHY ARE YOU CALLING THE SHOTS? I'M PLENTY QUALIFIED TO ACT AS CAPTAIN MYSELF.

DUM
DOM
DUM
I'M A LITTLE RUSTY,
BUT I THINK I'VE GOT THIS. JUST GIVE THE WORD!

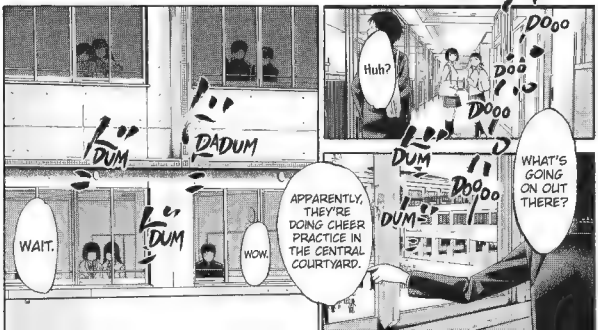
HEY! HURRY IT UP!
I KNOW YOU FIRST-YEARS PRACTICED THIS STUFF DURING YOUR TRIAL PERIOD IN THE CLUB, AND YOU SECOND-YEARS CAN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN IT ALL.
COME JOIN US, YOU GUYS! YOU CAN STAND IN BACK AND MAKE SOME NOISE, AT LEAST!
?!
OSU!
OH... SU...

PAT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AS MUCH OF A LOUDMOUTH AS SUGA, BUT YOU'VE GOTTA AT LEAST MAKE AN EFFORT TO PROJECT YOUR VOICE.
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

KOFF
LET'Z DO THIS.

BADUMP
GO IMAMURA!
YOU CAN DO IT!
"SO, LISTEN..."
"...WE'VE GOTTA MAKE THE OUENDAN AS BIG AS IT USED TO BE."

IS SOMEONE LIKE ME EVEN CAPABLE OF DOING THAT?
THE OUENDAN EXISTS TO CHEER PEOPLE ON!


DUM
DADUM
DUM
WAIT.
WOW.
APPARENTLY, THEY'RE DOING CHEER PRACTICE IN THE CENTRAL COURTYARD.
Huh?
DOOO
DOOO
DOOO
DUM
DUM
DOOO
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

DID THEY GET SOME NEW MEMBERS?
OUTTA THE PARK!
OUTTA THE PARK!
SINCE WHEN IS THE OUENDAN THAT BIG?
HERE'S OUR CHANCE!
HERE'S OUR CHANCE!
HERE'S OUR CHANCE!
OUTTA THE PARK!
ERE'S OUR HANCE!

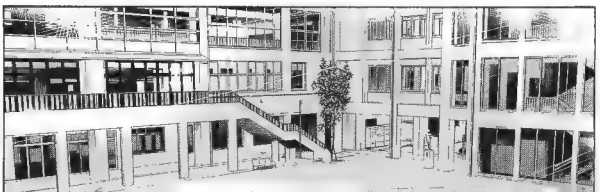
BASE-BALL CHEERS, HUH?
DOO
DOO
DOO?
DOO?
DOO
DOO?
DUM
DUM
DUM

IT'S COOL THAT IMAMURA WAS ABLE TO BRING BACK THE OLDEN DAN AND ALL...
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
HEY!...
HMM...
HEY!...
OH!
YOUR THREE YEARS AT THIS SCHOOL? HUH?
FOR-GET IT!

...BUT I BET IT WON'T BE EASY TO HAVE TO CHEER FOR A TEAM HE KNOWS IS GONNA LOSE.
IRSH!!!

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, ALL YOU MANAGED TO DO TODAY WAS GET IN THE WAY! ARE YOU EVEN SERIOUS ABOUT THIS OUENDAN THING?
KOFF
KOFF
YOU GUYS ARE TOO QUIET, YOU'RE OUT OF SYNC, AND YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER YOUR MOVES!
KANAN

OKAY, OKAY. TRAINING IS ADJOURNED. GOOD JOB, EVERYONE.
YOU BETTER GET IT TOGETHER BEFORE THE PRACTICE GAME!



AAAGH... SORRY, GUYS.
MY CHOREO-GRAPHY WAS WAY OFF.
THAT WAS PATHE-TIC, OKA!
I COULDN'T REMEMBER A DAMN THING, BUT I DIDN'T LET THAT STOP ME. I JUST MADE IT UP AS I WENT ALONG.
I DEFINITELY WASN'T DRUMMING IN TIME WITH THE BAND!
HAHAHA!
FUCK!!
IT WASN'T EASY TO WATCH IMAMURA, EITHER.
WHEN I ASKED HIM TO STAND IN BACK WITH THE FLAG, I JUST WANTED TO HIDE HOW OFF RHYTHM HE WAS. I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO GET BLOWN AWAY BY A STRONG BREEZE!
YEAH!
YEAH!
THE CAPTAIN'S HEADBUTT MUST'VE BEEN A GOOD ONE! YOU LITTLE PISSANT!
...
KOFF
KOFF
TO-MOR-ROW ...
...THE REAL TRAIN-ING BE-GINS.
SIIIGH ...
OKAY.
AND I THOUGHT I WAS DONE WITH THE OUEN-DAN.
IT'S OUR LAST YEAR. I GUESS I CAN STAND TO HELP YOU OUT.
AND ONE MORE THING.

?!
ドドド

TO COMMEM-ORATE KINICHIRO IMAMURA'S ACCEP-TANCE INTO THE OUENDAN ...
LET US CHEER!
HUH ...?
DA DUM
HFFF

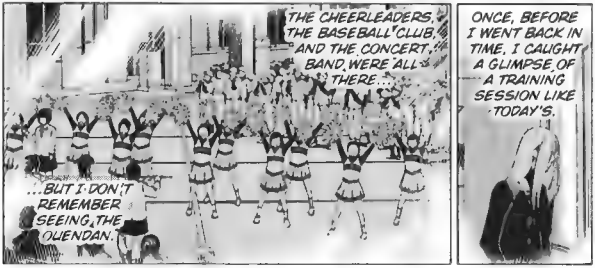
I-
MA-
MU-
RA!
HOO-
RAY!
HOO-
RAY!

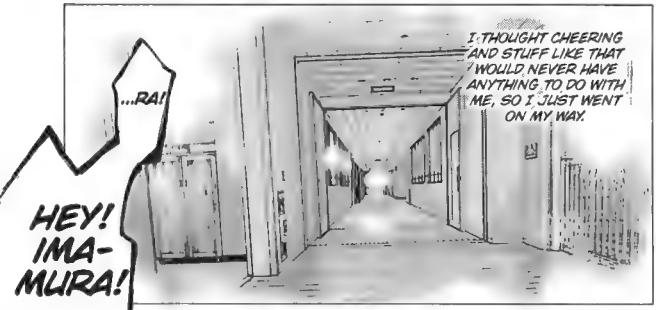
YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU CAN DO IT!
IMAMURA!

DUH
DUM

CON-
GRATULA-
TIONS.
YOU'RE
ONE OF
US NOW.

DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD, IMA-MURA?
ARE YOU OKAY?!
Whoa!
What?!
Imamura-kun's crying?
SHOCK
DRIP
HUH?!


THE CHEERLEADERS, THE BASEBALL CLUB, AND THE CONCERT BAND WERE ALL THERE.
...BUT I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING THE OLIENDAN.
ONCE, BEFORE I WENT BACK IN TIME, I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF A TRAINING SESSION LIKE TODAY'S.


I THOUGHT CHEERING AND STUFF LIKE THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME, SO I JUST WENT ON MY WAY.
...RA!
HEY! IMA-MURA!

IMA-
MURA!

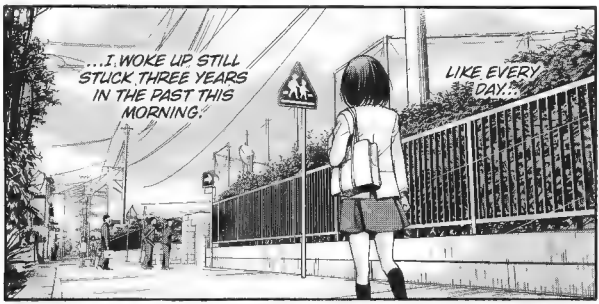
THE OUENDAN SEEMED GONE FOR GOOD, BUT NOW, I'M A PART OF IT.

Again!!
アゲイン!!

18. THE GIRL WHO DIDN'T WANT TO LEAP THROUGH TIME

I LOVE YOU.
AKI.
AH HA HA HA HA HA! THAT'S HILARIOUS, AKI!
I KNEW YOU'D LIVEN THINGS UP, FUJIEDA THIS IS GREAT!
AKI!
AKI-CHAN!
FUJI-EDA!
HEY, AKI! GET A LOAD OF WHAT YOU-KNOW-WHO DID THIS TIME!
OH, HIRO-KUN!
I LOVE YOU, TOO!

YOU'LL BE LATE TO SCHOOL!
AKI! IT'S TIME TO GET UP!
DRIP DRIP
SO IT WAS A DREAM.
OH...


...I WOKE UP STILL STUCK THREE YEARS IN THE PAST THIS MORNING.
LIKE EVERY DAY.

GOOD MOOORNING!
HIRO-KUN!

ちょっ PIP
ちょっ PIP
...
OH, YOU.
COME ON, HIRO-KUN. WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ANSWERING MY TEXTS?
WANNA GO SOMEPLACE TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL?
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU TO FINISH WITH YOUR CLUB STUFF.
無
IGNORED
視っ

I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU. ALL YOU'RE DOING IS CREEPING ME OUT.
QUIT TRYING TO TALK TO ME EVERY MORNING, AND STOP TEXTING ME.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
How did you get my number, anyway?
HIRO-KUN STILL HASN'T FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME YET.
I WISH HE'D HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO HIS OLD SELF.
GET AWAY BEFORE I SMACK YOU!
JUST LET IT HAPPEN!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? WE'LL GROW MORE INTIMATE SOON ENOUGH.
TURN

WAIT.
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED...
...THAT YOU MAY HAVE ALTERED THE TIMELINE BY MEETING HIM EARLY?

WHAT?!
WHEN DID YOU FIRST MEET HIM, ANYWAY?
I mean before we went back in time
IT WAS OUR SECOND YEAR.
WE GOT PUT IN THE SAME CLASS.

IMAMURA-KUN!
WE WERE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES FOR OUR FIRST YEAR,
BUT HE WAS PRETTY POPULAR, SO I ALREADY HAD MY EYE ON HIM.
THEN, WHEN WE WERE ASSIGNED TO THE SAME CLASS, WE ENDED UP SITTING NEXT TO EACH OTHER. HE STARTED TALKING TO ME, AND WE GOT TO BE GOOD FRIENDS. EVENTUALLY, HE CONFESSED HIS FEELINGS FOR ME, AND THEN–
TEE HEE HEE
NOM
NOM
NOM
SORRY, NEVER MIND. I'M NOT ACTUALLY INTERESTED.
HEY, SHIBATA.
HERE YOU ARE.
TAP
TAP

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
YOU ALWAYS VANISH AS SOON AS THE LUNCH BELL RINGS.
DO YOU WANNA EAT TOGETHER?
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S NOT LIKE ABE'S STILL MAKING YOU WORK AS HER HONEYPOT, IS SHE?
WELL, NO.
I MEAN, I'VE RESIGNED FROM THE CHEERLEADING CLUB.
MY FRIENDS SAID THEY DON'T MIND IF YOU WANT TO KEEP EATING LUNCH WITH US.
Chie-chan
Ema-chan
BESIDES, IMAMURA-KUN...
...I'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER, AS A FRIEND.

WE'RE BOTH LIVING THE PAST OVER AGAIN...
...SO WHY'S IMAMURA THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO HAVE A GOOD TIME?!
I GUESS? I MEAN, WHO AM I TO SAY NO?
UHH.
WOULD THAT BE OKAY?

OR HAVE YOU ALREADY FOUND LUNCH BUDDIES IN YOUR OWN CLASS?
FLUSH!

HEY!
IF YOU'D LIKE, WHY DON'T YOU EAT WITH US, TOO, FUJIEDA-SAN?

ALL ALONE...
YOU IDIOT!

FUJI-EDA? HEY.
DAMN. WHAT'S SHE MAD ABOUT?

ONE LITTLE MISSTEP WAS ALL IT TOOK FOR THE GIRLS TO START AVOIDING ME...
...AND ONCE THE BOYS CAUGHT WIND OF THAT, THEY STARTED PRETENDING NOT TO SEE ME AROUND. IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR A WEEK NOW.

I'M SO BORED!
IF I HAVE TO LIVE HIGH SCHOOL OVER AGAIN, I WANNA AT LEAST DO SOMETHING COOL WITH IT!
I'M NOT EXACTLY BEING BULLIED ...
...BUT IT'S STILL EXHAUSTING.

I'LL BECOME A HIGH-SCHOOL SUPERSTAR BY GETTING A JUMP ON ALL THE MAJOR FASHION TRENDS!
I CAN GET ON TV BY MAKING PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE!
I SHOULD START A BLOG OR JOIN TWITTER OR SOMETHING!
THE LOVELY YOUNG LADY WHO CAN SEE THE FUTURE
AKIRA FUJIEDA-SAN
GASP
...BUT HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REMEMBER ANYTHING USEFUL WHEN I WAS NEVER INTO THAT STUFF IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I don't know anything about stocks, either.
LIKE GETTING SUPER RICH OFF OF HORSE RACING OR THE LOTTERY.

PANT
PANT
HEH HEH HEH. I THINK I'VE OUTDONE MYSELF.
THIS SHEET OF PAPER NOW CONTAINS FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE.
EARTH-SHAKING DISASTERS, CELEBRITY SCANDALS, WHO'LL BE PRIME MINISTER...
I'VE GOT IT ALL RIGHT HERE.
MOMO
THEN HIRO-KUN WILL HAVE TO FALL BACK IN LOVE WITH ME!
Aki, I love you.
So, so much!
I'm sorry I wasn't there for you
It's okay, Hiro-kun! I'll always love you.
LET ME MAKE A LIST OF EVERY-THING THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.
ALL RIGHT!
TOSS
NOTE
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
GASP
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
DAMN IT!
HEY!
JERK
IF THIS GETS OUT...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE ANY-MORE.
GULP...

I DIDN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP! IT'S ALL GONNA COME TRUE!
MY PROPHE-CIES ARE THE REAL DEAL!

WOW, WHAT THE HELL?
RIP
RIP
Whoa!
God, that's scary!
SHE'S SO WEIRD.
WHISPER WHISPER
SERI-OUSLY.
GIGGLE GIGGLE
SHE WAS JUST GRINNING TO HER-SELF AND MAKING UP A FUTURE TIMELINE!

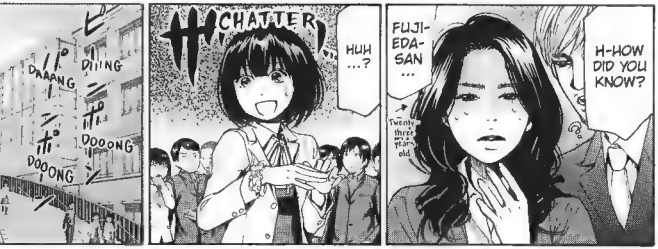
TAKE YOUR SEATS.
SFX: SHUFFLE

GIGGLE GIGGLE
DON'T BE LIKE THAT, MAN.
UHHH, UMM ...

COME ON.
WELL THEN, TELL US SOMETHING WE CAN VERIFY SOONER.
DUDE.
HOLY CRAP ...

THAT'S IT.

OUR ENGLISH TEACHER, KAWAMOTO-SENSEI? SHE'S GONNA HAVE TO QUIT SOON EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY HER SECOND YEAR OF TEACHING 'CAUSE ERIC-SENSEI KNOCKED HER UP AND THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED!
I THINK SHE'S ALREADY PREG-NANT!
RIGHT, SEN-SEI?!


DIING
DAAPNG
DOOONG
DOPONG
CHATTER
HUH ...?
FUJI-EDA-SAN ...
Twenty-three years old
H-HOW DID YOU KNOW?

DUM
DADUM
DADUM
NOW MY CLASSMATES JUST THINK I'M EVEN MORE OF A FREAK.

THAT NOISE...
THE OUENDAN MUST BE PRACTICING.
DUM
DADUM
OSU!
I JOINED THE TENNIS CLUB 'CAUSE SATO-CHAN INVITED ME.
BUT NOW, THINGS ARE SORT OF WEIRD BETWEEN US. MAYBE I SHOULD JOIN A DIFFERENT CLUB.
IMA-MURA'S LUCKY... BY DOING THINGS OVER AGAIN, HE GOT A CHANCE TO JOIN THE OUENDAN.
EVEN THOUGH HE ACTUALLY WENT ALL OF HIGH SCHOOL WITHOUT MAKING ANY FRIENDS...
MAYBE I SHOULD JOIN A CLUB, TOO.
HMPH.
WAIT!
IF I DO THINGS DIFFERENT THAN I DID LAST TIME, IS THAT GONNA DRIVE ME AND HIRO-KUN EVEN FURTHER APART?!
OH, HIRO-KUUUN!
I WANNA FOOL AROUND WITH YOU AGAIN!
...

I'M GONNA GO ON 2CHAN AND REVEAL WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IN HUNTER × HUNTER IN THE SHONEN JUMP DISCUSSION THREAD!
I'LL SPOIL EVERY-THING!
I'll come back into serialization in August
TAKKA
TAKKA
TAKKA
JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT EVIL THINGS I CAN DO WITH MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE!
GOD DAMN IT! WHY SHOULD I BE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS TO SUFFER?
FWIP!

THAT WAS THE MOST EVIL THING I COULD THINK OF!
NGAH!
FLUMP
...

WAIT...
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
NO ONE'S GONNA KNOW IT WAS US.
COME ON. DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU MAD?
WHOA, YOU'RE SERIOUS?
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THESE?
THUNK
THUNK
I TOLD YOU. WE'RE BURNING THEM.

I REMEMBER NOW.
THERE WAS A PANIC OVER A SMALL FIRE DURING MY FIRST YEAR.
IT STARTED WITH A BUNCH OF BOOKS AND STUFF FROM THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM THAT GOT BURNED UP.
THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT SOME GIRLS DID IT, BECAUSE THEY WERE JEALOUS OF KAWAMOTO-SENSEI'S GETTING MARRIED.
I GUESS IT WAS TRUE.
YOU KNOW KAWAMOTO MUST HAVE SEDUCED HIM.
THAT BITCH.
GASP!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
?!
HIGH SCHOOL DETECTIVE AKI... I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!
I CAN USE MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE TO SOLVE MYSTERIES!
It's you who did it!
Likewise, one truth prevails!
One girl has lunch on her own every day!
Maybe they'll even make a movie about me
HIGH SCHOOL DETECTIVE AKI

LET'S GO.
DASH!
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
WHAT?
GOD...
THE CASE IS CLOSED BEFORE IT EVEN OPENED!
...
...THEN NO ONE WILL KNOW THERE WAS A CASE TO BEGIN WITH.
IF I SOLVE THE CASE BEFORE ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS ...
WAIT.
AAAGH. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH ALL THIS GARBAGE?
OR TEXT-BOOKS, I GUESS.
I ORDER YOU TO STOP!
THE FIRE YOU SET IS GOING TO SPREAD TO THE BULK WASTE AND CAUSE PANIC AMONG THE SCHOOL'S STUDENTS ATND FACULTY!
IT'S UP TO ME TO DEFEND THE PEACE OF OUR CAMPUS!
She just wants to say this part.

HUH?
CLICK
THOSE MUST BE THE MATERIALS THAT WERE STOLEN FROM MY CLASS-ROOM.
HADUM!
FUJI-EDA-SAN,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

NO! NO! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, SENSEI! I WASN'T GONNA-
WHAT ?!
Ow! Ow!
YOU'LL SERIOUSLY GO THIS FAR TO HARASS ME JUST BECAUSE I'M MARRYING ERIC?!
THAT'S CRUEL !
YOU WERE GOING TO BURN THEM?!

SOME-BODY HELP !!!
IT WASN'T ME! I SWEAR!
WE CAN LET THE POLICE SORT THIS OUT.
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.

SENSEI.
IT WASN'T HER.
WAIT... R-REALLY?
NOD
I SAW A COUPLE OF SECOND-YEAR GIRLS CARRYING YOUR STUFF OUT.
ALL SHE DID WAS STOP THEM FROM SETTING IT ON FIRE.
THE GIRLS RAN THAT WAY.

HIRO-KUN...
じわ...
TOUCHED
YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME, HAVEN'T YOU?
THE HELL I HAVE!

OHHH... HIRO-KUN'S AS KIND AS I REMEMBERED.
I ALREADY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, ANYWAY, SO JUST GIVE IT UP.
BYE.
YOU AND ME ARE GONNA START DATING ONE OF THESE DAYS, HIRO-KUN!
YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT!

'CAUSE GOING BACK IN TIME HASN'T MADE ME LOVE HIM ANY LESS!
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE SURE OF THAT!
HIRO-KUN IS GONNA SEE THE LIGHT SOONER OR LATER.
WEIRDO ...
LATER ...
...PEOPLE OF A CERTAIN SORT STARTED SEEKING MY ATTENTION.
WILL YOU JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO SAVE THE WORLD?
FUJIEDA-SAN ...
UH, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY SUPERPOWERS ...

19. DESTINED FOR DEFEAT

"CONGRATULATIONS. YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW."
DR-
-IP
HUH?
AM I... CRYING?
UH-OH, I'M CREEPING THEM OUT. COME ON, THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!

THEY MUST THINK I'M SO WEIRD.
I'M NOT, THOUGH. I'M NORMALLY SO COOL-HEADED...
NGH...
DAMN IT.
AAAGH
I CAN'T MAKE IT STOP
DRIP
DRIP
NGH...
DRIP
GLOMP

I'M SO SORRY! FROM NOW ON, I'LL DO MY VERY BEST TO TEACH YOU EVERY-THING YOU'LL NEED TO KNOW.
IMA-MURA!
SO YOU WANTED TO BE PART OF THE OUENDAN THAT BADLY, HUH?
UH.
NO, I MEAN, I WOULDN'T SAY–
AND TOGETHER, WE CAN REBUILD THE OUENDAN!

...
PAT
AH...
...CHAN.

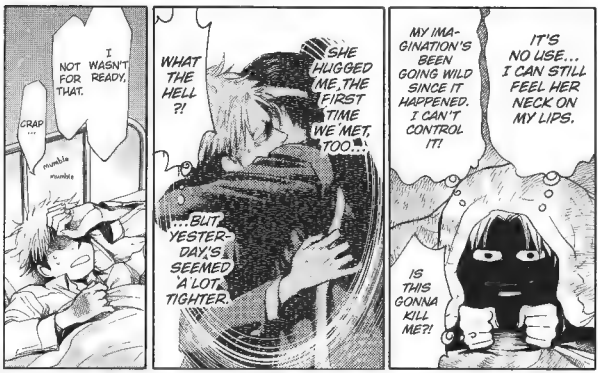
KIN-CHAN! RISE AND SHINE!
PAT
GET YOUR BUTT OUT OF BED ALREADY!

...
モゾ
FIDGET
RIGHT ...
SHWIP
...
OUENDAN PRACTICE STARTS TODAY, REMEMBER?
OOOH, IT'S YOUR VERY FIRST TIME IN A CLUB!
DO YOUR BEST NOW, OKAY?

WHO SHALL WE HAVE READ NEXT? HOW ABOUT...
..IMA-MURA.
LUMM ...
ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?
HEY!
IMA-MURA?

DAMN IT, IMAMURA, JUST GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE!
STOP!
STOP IT!
NOOOOO!
AAAGH!
GAAAH!

DO YOU NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?
I'M DYING! NOOO!
YOU IDIOT!
KICK
KICK
WAAGH!
NURSE'S OFFICE


I WASN'T READY.
NOT FOR THAT.
CRAP ...
mumble mumble
WHAT THE HELL ?!
SHE HUGGED ME, THE FIRST TIME WE MET, TOO...
...BUT, YESTERDAY'S SEEMED A LOT TIGHTER.
MY IMAGINATION'S BEEN GOING WILD SINCE IT HAPPENED. I CAN'T CONTROL IT!
IS THIS GONNA KILL ME?!
IT'S NO USE... I CAN STILL FEEL HER NECK ON MY LIPS.

FLINCH
OH, IMAMURA-KUN!
YOU HAVE QUENDAN PRACTICE TODAY, RIGHT?
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
UH, WELL... YEAH, I MEAN, I'M GONNA-
HMM?
MAYBE I SHOULD SKIP OUT ON PRACTICE...
MUTTER
TOBIING
DOOONG
DAAANG
DOOONG
SCOOT
CAN WE COME WATCH?
SO YOU'RE REALLY GONNA DO IT? I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU CHEERING, IMAMURA!
Reo-chan told us!
IMAMURA-KUN!
TIME FOR PRACTICE!
WHAM
?!
STAY AWAY!
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL!
Aww, what's the big deal?
OH WELL, WE'LL GET TO SEE YOU CHEERING AT A BASEBALL GAME SOON ENOUGH. I BET YOU'LL LOOK SO COOL!

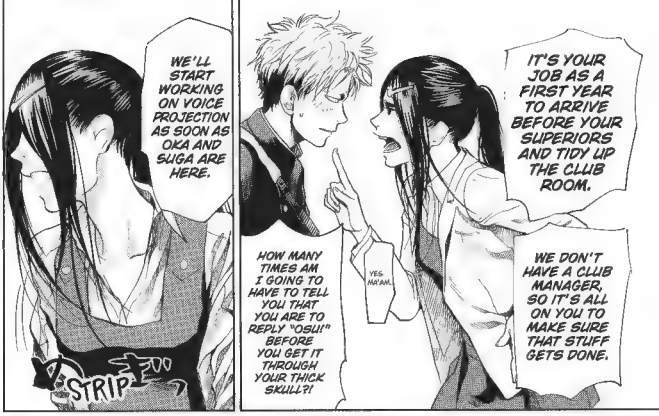
LET ME GO.
KAORI.
DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.
IMAMURA JOINED THE OUENDAN, HUH?
HUH.
WE'VE GOTTA TRAIN, TRAIN, AND TRAIN SOME MORE!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE THE BASE-BALL CLUB'S SPRING PRACTICE GAME!
RIGHT THIS WAY.
HEY, I NEVER SAID I WAS JOINING!

...
Wow
WEREN'T THEY ALL OUT IN THE COURTYARD WITH THE BASEBALL CLUB YESTERDAY PRACTICING CHEERS?

I NEVER JOINED A SINGLE CLUB THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER--HELL, THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE SCHOOL CAREER.
SO AM I REALLY GONNA BE ABLE TO MAKE IT IN THE OUENDAN?

OUENDAN

EX-CUSE ME.
OSU!
BOW!!
COME IN.
OUENDAN
Come on!
RIGHT...
YOU DO IT, TOO!
OUENDAN
OSU! EXCUSE ME.
BOW!!
SLIDE
YOU'RE LATE!
HNNNNNGH


WE'LL START WORKING ON VOICE PROJECTION AS SOON AS OKA AND SUGA ARE HERE.
STRIP
IT'S YOUR JOB AS A FIRST YEAR TO ARRIVE BEFORE YOUR SUPERIORS AND TIDY UP THE CLUB ROOM.
WE DON'T HAVE A CLUB MANAGER, SO IT'S ALL ON YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT STUFF GETS DONE.
YES, MA'AM.
HOW MANY TIMES AM I GOING TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE TO REPLY "OSU!" BEFORE YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULL?!

GET OUT OF THE CLUB ROOM WHILE YOUR CAPTAIN IS CHANGING!
STAAAARE

HEY! YOU BETTER ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SUPERIORS, FIRST-YEAR!
HEY, GUYS!
OSU!
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A CRUSH ON CAPTAIN USAMI!
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR! USAMI'S THE ONE WHO I ADORE! FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT! COME ON BABY, BE MY MATE!
DUM
TAKKA
TAKA
TAK
DON'T START WITH THE CREEPY CHEERS!

OSU!
ガラッ
SLIDE
IS EVERY-BODY HERE?
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GET TO TRAIN-ING!
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP

OSU!
OSU!
OSU!
OSU!
DOING HIGH SCHOOL OVER AGAIN HAS ALLOWED ME TO KEEP THE OUENDAN FROM FALLING APART...
...BUT NOW I CAN'T EXACTLY GO BACK TO HOW THINGS WERE. SO, DO I JUST HAVE TO STICK WITH THE OUENDAN?
What's the matter?
That all you got?
TREMBLE TREMBLE
AFTER ALL, I DON'T PARTICULARLY FEEL LIKE CHEERING ANYBODY ON...
...AND I CAN'T SAY I'M THRILLED ABOUT BEING PART OF SOME HIERARCHY.

KATTING
WORD IS THAT THE BASEBALL CLUB'S GOT SOME PROMISING NEW RECRUITS THIS YEAR.
AND THEIR SECOND AND THIRD 194-17YEARS AREN'T HALF-BAD, EITHER. AS LONG AS THEIR TEAMWORK IS DECENT, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT PRETTY FAR, MAYBE EVEN TO THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS.
NICE!
NO KID-DING?
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO CHEER FOR THEM AT A GAME THEY'VE WON YET.

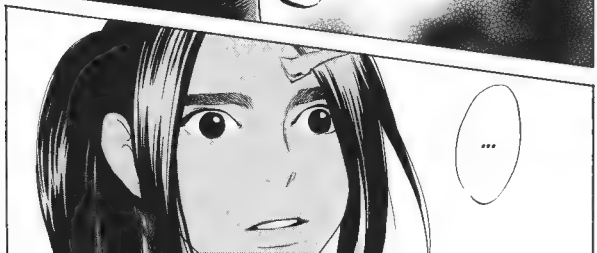
FIRST THINGS FIRST!
WE HAVE TO COME OUT ON TOP AT THE SPRING PRACTICE GAME!
WITH IMAMURA HAVING JUST JOINED OUR RANKS, WE CAN'T ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE DEFEATED THIS YEAR!
OSU!
OH...
UH-OH.
UMM...
THERE'S SORT OF SOME-THING I FORGOT TO MENTION.
WHAT IS IT?
I CAN'T LET THEM GET THEIR HOPES UP.
WELL...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
COME AGAIN?

THE TEAMS I SUPPORT ALWAYS LOSE, NO MATTER WHAT.
IT'S BEEN THAT WAY FOR A LONG TIME.

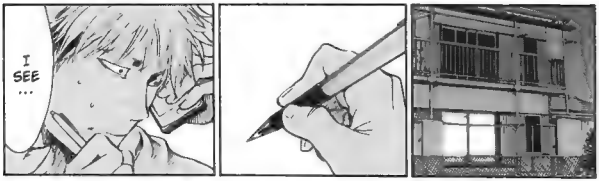
IF I'M ON A TEAM, THEY LOSE, EVER SINCE I WAS IN DAYCARE. NOT TO MENTION HOW JAPAN ALWAYS LOSES IN THE OLYMPICS AND INTERNATIONAL SOCCER.
SERIOUSLY, I'M NOT KIDDING. IT'S TRUE.
SHING DEFEAT FOR JAPAN

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MUCH HOPE OF WINNING AT ANYTHING.
AS LONG AS I'M IN THE OUENDAN,
UH...
SO...

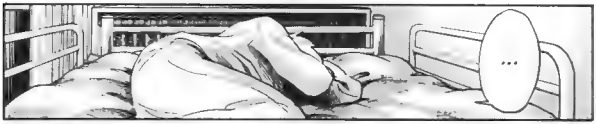

...

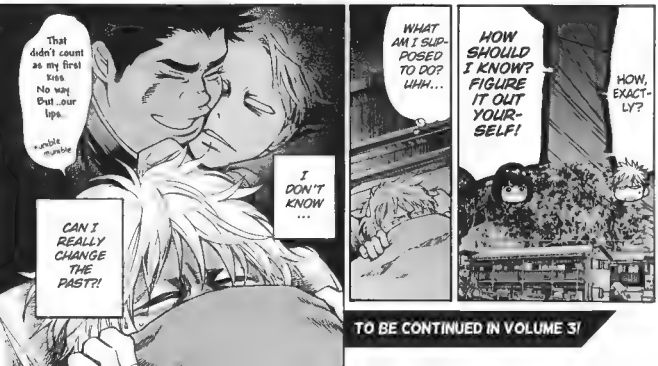
WHO CARES ABOUT ANY OF THAT?! WE CAN WIN! TRUST ME!
YOU LITTLE PUNK!
SQUEEEEEZE
YEAH.
SUGA'S RIGHT.
HELL, IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT WE'VE GOT THE OUENDAN BACK TOGETHER LIKE THIS, IMAMURA.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN LOSE!
THIS IS BAD...

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT STUFF, SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
I JUST NEED YOU TO SHARE SOME INFO WITH ME ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
WHO CARES? JUST TELL ME.
WHERE'S THIS COMING FROM?
WHAT ?
YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL DURING OUR THREE YEARS THERE?

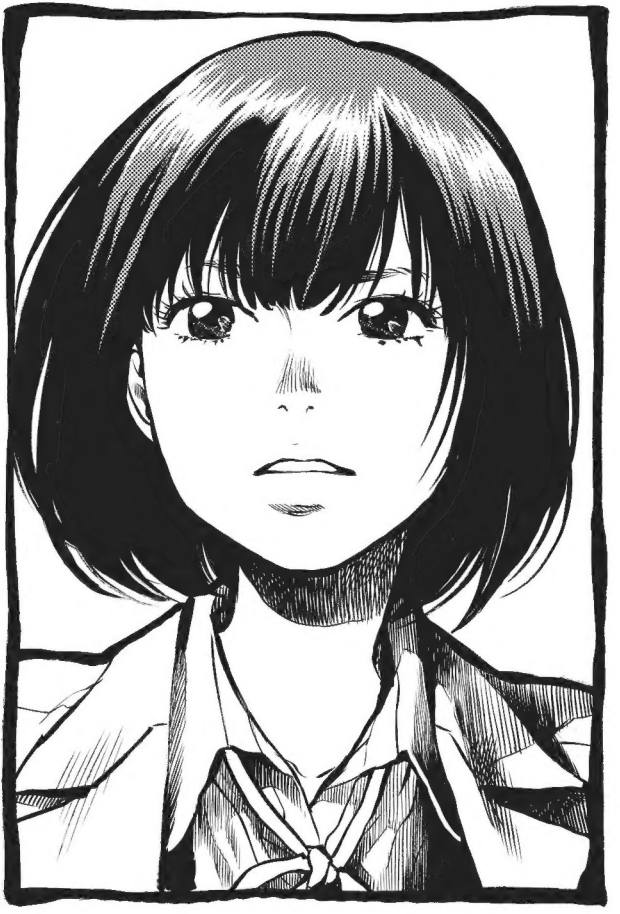

I SEE ...

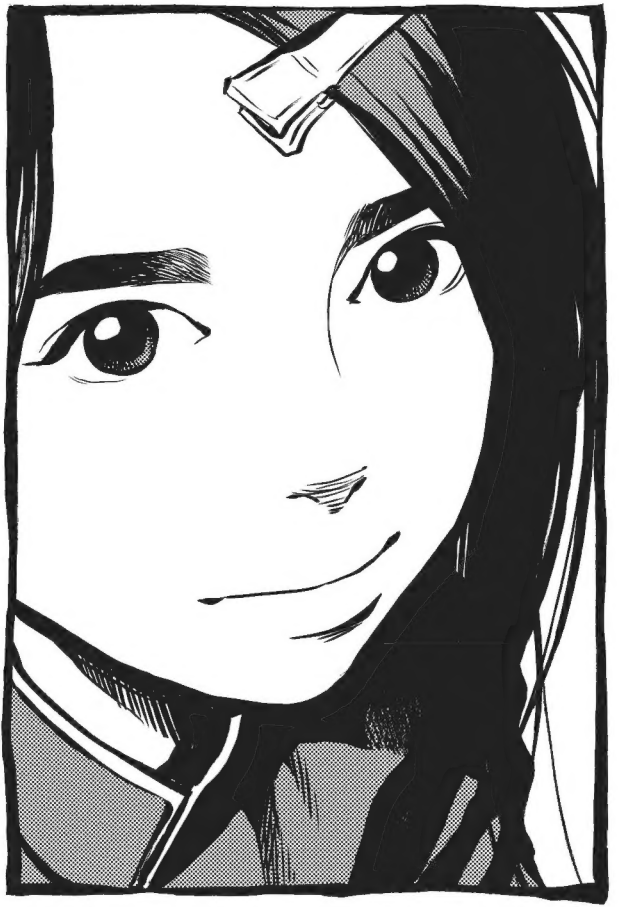
SO, THE BASEBALL TEAM ISN'T GOING TO WIN A SINGLE GAME,
INCLUDING THE UPCOMING SPRING PRACTICE GAME.
THEY WERE GOING TO LOSE WITH OR WITHOUT ME...
...BUT AT THIS RATE, EVERYONE'S GONNA BLAME IT ON ME!
ゴロゴロゴロ
ROLL-ROLL-ROLL




That didn't count as my first kiss. No way. But...our lips...
...mble mumble
I DON'T KNOW ...
CAN I REALLY CHANGE THE PAST?!
WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO? UHH...
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? FIGURE IT OUT YOUR-SELF!
HOW, EXACT-LY?

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3!





This is the AFTERWORD!

On this page, I thought I'd include a sketch or two that I drew as concept art for this series when I was getting ready for it to begin serialization. But once I'd dug them up, I was shocked at how much Captain Usami's face has changed since then.

Maybe I was thinking about making her a frailer character with some sort of not-all-there vibe... I can't remember.

I get the feeling I ended up making her more of a strong character because I started work on the final draft of chapter one right around when the big earthquake hit.

Although, I guess I never have been one to draw princesses who just expect people to protect them for no reason!

2011.10. 久保ミツロウ☆

Mitsurou Kubo, October 2011

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Again!! 2

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